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INDIA'S NATIONAL NEWSPAPER SINCE 1878

SATURDAY, APRIL 30, 2022

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Russia admits it carried out an air strike on Kyiv during UN chief's visit
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India may take over a decade to overcome pandemic losses: RBI
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Lucknow Super Giants gets the better of Punjab Kings
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NEARBY

India will lead the next tech revolution: PM

BENGALURU

Inaugurating the three-day Semicon India 2022 conference being held in Bengaluru on Friday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said India is headed for a robust economy. "We are paving the way for India to lead the next technology revolution," he said.

SOUTH ▸ PAGE 11

HC fiat on CET-2022 for OCI students

BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka has permitted the Overseas Citizens of India category students to register for the Common Entrance Test (CET)-2022 and participate in the counselling on a par with Indian citizens to pursue their bachelor degree in the general category of seats in engineering, architecture, ayurveda, and other professional courses.

KARNATAKA ▸ PAGE 10

'Language cannot be an area of controversy'

BENGALURU

Batting for mother tongue and regional language, Union Minister for Education Dharmendra Pradhan stressed that language cannot be an area of controversy or a barrier.

BENGALURU ▸ PAGE 5

PROPERTYPLUS ▸ PAGES 6 & 7

China to ease curbs on entry of Indian students

Embassy in Beijing compiling list of those stranded in India

ANANTH KRISHNAN
HONG KONG

China will allow some Indian students to return to resume their studies – after a two-year pandemic-induced gap – on a "need-assessed basis", Indian officials said on Friday.

An agreement to allow their return was reached following the meeting of External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar and Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi on March 25 in New Delhi, the Indian Embassy in Beijing said in a statement.

India accounts for among the highest number of foreign students in China with more than 20,000 enrolled in universities there, mostly in medical colleges. They returned home when COVID-19 broke out in December 2019 and could not return due to entry curbs.

Relief soon: A decision on the return of students was reached following External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar's meeting with his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi in March in Delhi. • PTI

'On need-assessed basis'

The Chinese side "has expressed its willingness to consider facilitating the return of Indian students to China on a need-assessed basis," the Embassy said, adding that to facilitate the process, it was compiling a list of students who wish to return. Students have been asked to provide information about their cases by filling up a form made available on the website of the Indian Embassy in Beijing.

Confirming the agreement, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Zhao Lijian said China had "shared with the Indian side the procedures and experience of other countries' students returning to China."

Sri Lanka last week said it had reached an agreement with China for some students to return. Previously, both South Korea and Pakistan have also indicated they had been given the green light for their students to return.

"The work for Indian students' return has already been started," Mr. Zhao said. "We understand there is a large number of Indian students studying in China. India may need sometime to collect the names. China is ready to receive some of the Indian students under the current complicated severe epidemic situation," he added, referring to the current spread of Omicron cases in China which has led to a harsh lockdown in Shanghai.

China has not, however, provided a timeline for when it might open up and when the students will be able to return.

Following a meeting of the Communist Party's Politburo on Friday, the Chinese leadership reaffirmed its "dynamic zero COVID" policy and said it would remain vigilant on "imported" infections, suggesting little prospect of China opening up after more than two years of isolation from the world.

PSI exam results annulled

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

On the day the prime accused and BJP leader Divya Hagaragi was arrested in the police sub-inspector (PSI) recruitment examination scam case, the State Government announced that it would annul the results of the exam.

Re-exam to he held

The Government has decided to conduct a re-exam for 54,289 candidates who had written the original examination in October last year, according to Home Minister Araga Jnanendra.

Speaking to reporters on Friday after chairing a meeting with DG&IGP Praveen Sood and Additional Chief Secretary (Home) Rajneesh Goel, the Minister said there were irregularities in multiple exam centres, including Bengaluru.

"In this backdrop, we have decided to scrap the recruitment process that was done. All the 54,289 candidates, except for the accused, will be given another opportunity to write the exam," he said. The re-exam dates will be notified soon.

With the irregularities coming to light, Mr. Jnanendra said the Government was also planning on reducing the number of exam centres. "We will look at bigger exam centres with jammers, to stop candidates from using technology for cheating in the exam," he said. The Home Department was also considering implementing stringent laws to stop irregularities in recruitment exams. "This cash-for-jobs scam is happening with several government examinations. It must stop," the Home Minister said.

PRIME ACCUSED HELD ▸ PAGE 10

Valley in prayers

Kashmiris offering namaz on the last Friday of the holy month of Ramzan at the Hazratbal shrine in Srinagar. • NISSAR AHMAD

Passenger trains cancelled to give way to coal rakes

42 trains cancelled; many people hit during holiday season

YUTHIKA BHARGAVA
SHUBHOMOY SIKDAR
NEW DELHI/ RAIPUR

Amid the possibility of a power crisis due to shortage of coal, the Indian Railways has cancelled around 42 passenger trains so far to ensure faster delivery to and from coal producing regions of Chhattisgarh, Odisha, Madhya Pradesh and Jharkhand.

Even though the Railways has said that this is an 'interim measure' and cancellations have mostly taken place in non-priority sectors and less busy routes, many passengers have been left in the lurch ahead of the upcoming summer holiday season.

Among the trains that have been cancelled to facilitate movement of freight trains carrying coal, 34 are from the coal-rich South East Central Railway (SECR) and eight from Northern Railways where many of the power plants are based.

A coal train at a station in Nagpur on Friday. • PTI

SPECIAL

As per official data, following the cancellations, the Railways has raised the average daily loading of coal rakes to over 400 per day, which is the highest in the past five years. Railway officials said the national transporter has put 533 rakes for coal duty daily with as many as 427 rakes loaded on Thursday carrying a total of 1.62 million tonne.

The officials added that about 753 trips, involving 363 mail/express trains and 390 passenger trains in the SCER and NR railway zones, have been cancelled.

The cancellations of such a large number of trains has resulted in protests. The Chhattisgarh State Congress has been threatening, among other things, of blocking the movement of coal from the local mines, which may add to the woes of the stressed power sector.

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 14

Core sector growth dips to 4.3% in March

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Output from India's eight core sectors grew by 4.3% in March, moderately lower than the 6% growth recorded in February, but still reflecting the second highest growth rate over five months.

Fertilizer production recovered to grow 15.3% year-on-year after two months of contraction, though this was on a low base as output had declined 5% in March 2021. Cement production grew 8.8%, natural gas 7.6% and refinery products 6.2%.

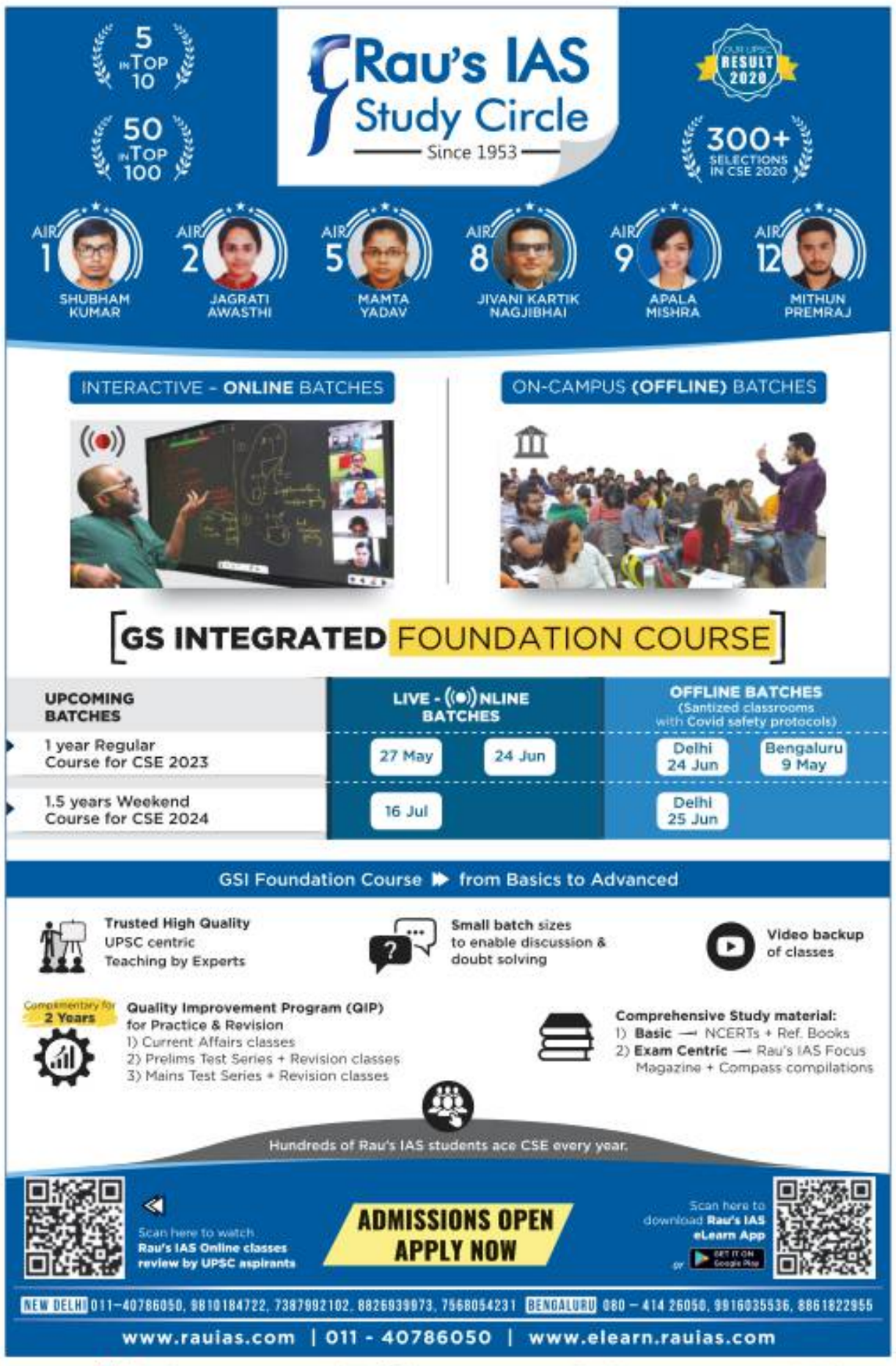
CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 14

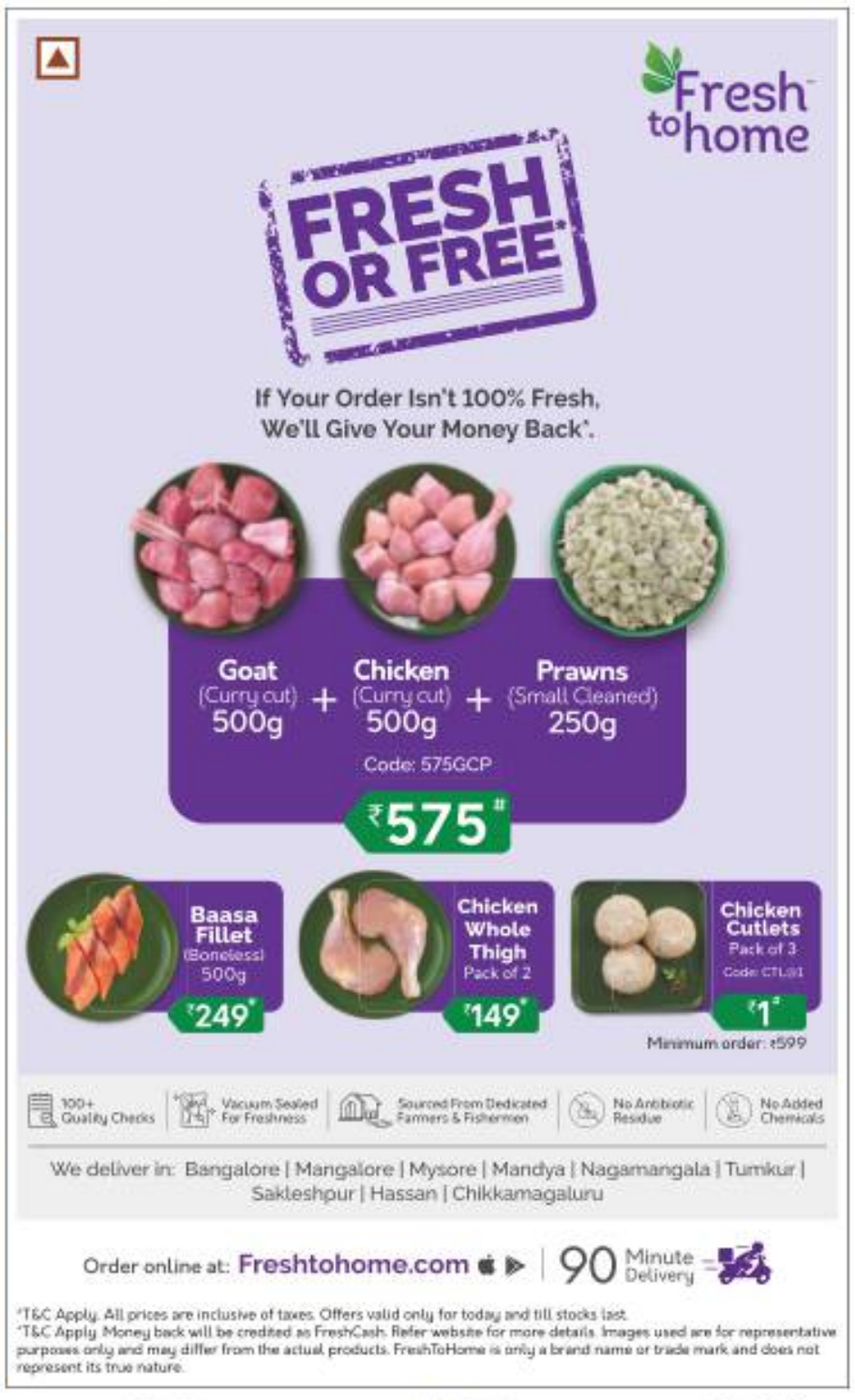
PM says govt. will handhold entrepreneurs

MAHESH LANGA
AHMEDABAD

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday said that his government was working to create a conducive atmosphere to help people from ordinary backgrounds to become entrepreneurs. In his address to the Global Patidar Business Summit in Surat, Mr. Modi also asked the community to form groups of entrepreneurs and experts to suggest policy reforms in banking and other sectors.

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 14





GAYATRI GOPICHAND

TREESA JOLLY

GETTY IMAGES

Teamwork makes the dream work

Teenagers Treesa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand have enjoyed a stunning rise in women's doubles after joining forces on a badminton court last year. What does the future hold for them?

STAN RAYAN

Her father Jolly Mathew was a volleyball coach but Treesa Jolly realised that she and older sister Maria were not made for spiking or blocking.

"We were not tall enough, so we tried badminton. In our village [Pulingome in Kannur near the Kerala-Karnataka border], nobody was interested in playing badminton," said Treesa.

"So dad made a court outside our house, and when it rained he made a roof with a tarpaulin sheet."

Treesa started whacking shuttle birds at six. Mathew trained her for six years before sending her to coach Anil Ramachandran because he felt she needed an upgrade.

Treesa was a smashing success in Kerala and many felt she would make it big. But there were some twists and turns.

"In singles, I had good performances at the State level, but at the National level I used to reach the semifinals just once or twice a year, there was no consistency," said the 18-year-old. "I was doing better in doubles."

She joined the Gopichand academy in Hyderabad, India's badminton capital, just before the COVID-19 lockdown in early 2020. A year later came the move that changed her life.

Treesa and Gayatri Gopichand, daughter of chief National coach P. Gopichand, were brought together when different doubles combinations were being tried out at the academy.

Becoming partners

"It was Gopi sir's and coach Arun Vishnu's decision that we should pair up," said Treesa.

Incidentally Gayatri, the 2019 South Asian Games runner-up, had also been focusing on singles.

"When the coaches saw our game style, they thought that [putting us together] was the best," said Gayatri.

Was the switch to doubles painful?

"No... it was my decision also and in singles, I was having too many injuries," revealed the 19-year-old who virtually grew up on the shuttle courts at her father's academy.

Surprisingly they clicked instantly, finishing runner-up in their first tournament together – the Polish International in September 2021.

Shortly after that, they entered the BWF World rankings in women's doubles at 433 in late September 2021 and it has been a stunning rise since. Just before the All England this March, the pair broke into the top 50 for the first time.

But days before that, they were not even sure whether they would play the All England.

"I didn't even expect to get in, we were No. 4 in the reserves list, then it was two and then we got in," said Gayatri.

"We were so excited, it was our first Super 1000 tournament. We did not think of anything, there was no pressure. Give your best... we went with that frame of mind," said Treesa.

Birmingham took the duo to a wonderful high. It was dramatic too and the Indians were up against Indonesia's Tokyo Olympic champions Greysia Polii and Apriyani Rahayu in the pre-quarterfinals.

> **Commonwealth will be our first big Games. Of course, medal chance is there... we want to play our best and bring a medal for India**
> TREESA JOLLY

> **Now, I feel like I can play anyone. Off court, they are all legends, but on court, everyone is equal and you just have to give your best**
> GAYATRI GOPICHAND

The gold standard

"Apriyani is one of my favourite players. She is good at attacking from the back, I play a similar game. We just thought we were lucky to play the Olympic champions when we entered the court," said Treesa.

Unfortunately, Apriyani suffered an injury and retired in the second game.

Treesa had mixed feelings after that match. "On one hand, we felt that we could play the quarterfinal but on the other hand, we felt that she should not have got injured," she said.

They next ran into Korea's World Championship silver medallists Lee So-hee and Shin Seung-chan.

Communication is key

"We didn't have any plan, we didn't think we'd win too, we just wanted to play our best. We told each other, we shouldn't commit any mistake, even if we do, we should talk it out," said Treesa.

"After the first set, we felt they could not get easy points from us. So we thought if we play well, we could do something. We took the second game 22-20 and that made us very confident in the third and we won."

With that, they became the first Indian pair to enter the women's doubles semifinals at the All England and it carried them to a career-high 34 in the rankings... all this just six months after their first tournament.

Their dream run ended in the semifinals against China's Zhang Shu Xian and Zheng Yu, a pair which, like the Indians, had pulled off upsets in earlier rounds.

"Now, I feel like I can play anyone. Off court, they are all legends and all, but on court, everyone is equal and you just have to give your best," said Gayatri.

That confidence saw them win the recent trials to pick India's Uber Cup, Commonwealth Games and Asian Games teams. Treesa and Gayatri emerged as the country's top pair.

An attacking player, Treesa is almost always fire and fury with her stunning smashes from the back while Gayatri is the quiet calm with her interceptions, setting the stage for her partner's attack.

Doubles dynamic

Treesa is the dominant player, as the All England showed, but the Kerala star spoke of the crucial role Gayatri plays.

"While playing, if I'm down, she will motivate me, and if I feel I'm under pressure, she will handle me well. Then she will also play her best," explained Treesa. "She's a strong woman, even when she had problems, she came to motivate me."

Being the daughter of the chief National coach, perhaps the most powerful man in Indian badminton, has its challenges. There is the pressure of expectations. There have also been questions about whether she has been unfairly promoted to the Indian team.

How does Gayatri manage to stay cool despite the many pressures of her badminton life?

"I don't know. I still take a lot of pressure but I think that's what you have to deal with. Everyone has to deal with pressure."

Dealing with pressure

And meditation helps.

"Daily, whenever I get time, I do meditation, breathing and all those exercises. Before matches, I meditate, that really helps with handling pressure. It's some 15 to 20 minutes. And sometimes we do it together as well," said Gayatri.

And do images of opponents flash by during those moments?

"Yes, there is a lot of distraction but you have to focus on your breathing and get back to your body."

Apart from being No. 36 in BWF's World rankings, Treesa and Gayatri are currently No. 1 in the BWF World Tour rankings (for BWF World Tour and BWF Tour tournaments only).

What's the reason for their awesome run? What do they need to do to climb further?

One had to put these questions to somebody outside the 'zone' for a proper perspective – someone like former international Chetan Anand, one of India's finest players.

"Obviously, nobody expected these results [All England], that is where you have that quick transition from juniors to seniors," said Chetan.

"They are a fresh pair, that may have helped. Others had probably not read them well. How far will they go? That depends on how others read them.

"In the semifinal, Gayatri's defence was a little weak. She should work on her defence, her doubles drive. She plays more like a singles player... front court she needs to work on her attacking game and defence.

Things to work on

"And Treesa needs to work on the combination, she needs to use her partner better. Too early to predict anything... next six months or one year will be crucial," said Chetan.

Gayatri feels there is much work to do. "One main thing is we should learn to handle pressure and have good stamina because women's doubles is a lot about rallies."

The Commonwealth Games and Asian Games line up this year, offering a wonderful opportunity.

"If we just think about the present and give our best, anything is possible. We'll definitely try to make India proud... let's see what happens," said Gayatri.

"Commonwealth [in July-August] will be our first big Games. Of course, medal chance is there... we want to play our best and bring a medal for India," said Treesa.

THE TREESA-GAYATRI FILE

TREESA JOLLY	GAYATRI GOPICHAND
18 Age	19 Age
From: Pulingome, Kerala	From: Hyderabad, Telangana

WOMEN'S DOUBLES RANKING:

No. 36 (BWF World); **No. 1** (BWF World Tour)

Training base: Hyderabad

Coaches: P. Gopichand and Arun Vishnu

TREESA JOLLY GAYATRI GOPICHAND

HONOURS:

- All England (Birmingham, 2022): **semifinalists**
- Odisha Open (Cuttack, 2022): **champions**
- Syed Modi India International (Lucknow, 2022): **runners-up**
- Welsh International (Cardiff, 2021): **runners-up**
- India International Challenge (Bengaluru, 2021): **champions**
- Polish International (Zakopane, 2021): **runners-up**

QUICK CLIMB – RANKING PROGRESSION (BWF WORLD):

Sept. 27, 2021:	**No. 433**
Oct. 18, 2021:	**No. 241**
Oct. 25, 2021:	**No. 154**
Jan. 17, 2022:	**No. 93**
Mar. 14, 2022:	**No. 46**
March 21, 2022:	**No. 34 (career best)**
April 25, 2022:	**No. 36**

STACKING UP

ATP Men's Top 15

#	PLAYER	AGE	POINTS	EVENTS
1	Novak Djokovic	34	8,400	13
2	Daniil Medvedev	26	8,080	21
3	Alexander Zverev	25	7,465	22
4	Rafael Nadal	35	6,435	10
5	Stefanos Tsitsipas	23	5,770	26
6	Matteo Berrettini	26	4,570	19
7	Casper Ruud	23	4,130	28
8	Andrey Rublev	24	4,025	27
9	Carlos Alcaraz	18	3,827	21
10	Felix Auger-Aliassime	21	3,625	26
11	Cameron Norrie	26	3,440	27
12	Jannik Sinner	20	3,029	31
13	Taylor Fritz	24	3,010	29
14	Hubert Hurkacz	25	3,008	27
15	Diego Schwartzman	29	2,805	26

Top Indians ▸

Ramkumar Ramanathan
Rank 183 ▼4 spots

Prajnesh Gunneswaran
Rank 271 ▲2 spots

WTA Women's Top 15

#	PLAYER	AGE	POINTS	EVENTS
1	Iga Swiatek	20	7,181	17
2	Paula Badosa	24	5,045	29
3	Barbora Krejcikova	26	5,043	21
4	Aryna Sabalenka	23	4,711	20
5	Maria Sakkari	26	4,651	18
6	Anett Kontaveit	26	4,511	21
7	Karolina Pliskova	30	4,207	16
8	Danielle Collins	28	3,151	17
9	Garbine Muguruza	28	3,070	18
10	Ons Jabeur	27	3,015	19
11	Emma Raducanu	19	2,797	21
12	Jelena Ostapenko	24	2,780	19
13	Belinda Bencic	25	2,561	19
14	Jessica Pegula	28	2,510	20
15	Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova	30	2,472	11

Top Indians ▸

Ankita Raina
Rank 322 ▼5 spots

Karman Thandi
Rank 447 ▲1 spot

English Premier League Standings

#	TEAM	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
1	Man. City	33	25	5	3	80	21	59	80
2	Liverpool	33	24	7	2	85	22	63	79
3	Chelsea	33	19	9	5	68	28	40	66
4	Arsenal	33	19	3	11	52	40	12	60
5	Tottenham	33	18	4	11	56	38	18	58
6	Man. United	35	15	10	10	54	52	2	55
7	West Ham	34	15	7	12	52	44	8	52
8	Wolves	33	15	4	14	33	29	4	49
9	Newcastle	34	11	10	13	40	55	-15	43
10	Leicester City	32	11	9	12	47	51	-4	42
11	Brighton	34	9	14	11	31	42	-11	41
12	Brentford	34	11	7	16	41	49	-8	40
13	Southampton	34	9	13	12	40	56	-16	40
14	Crystal Palace	33	8	14	11	43	41	2	38
15	Aston Villa	32	11	4	17	42	46	-4	37
16	Leeds United	33	8	10	15	38	68	-30	34
17	Burnley	33	6	13	14	29	45	-16	31
18	Everton	32	8	5	19	34	55	-21	29
19	Watford	33	6	4	23	31	67	-36	22
20	Norwich City	33	5	6	22	22	69	-47	21

Italian Serie A Standings

#	TEAM	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
1	AC Milan	34	22	8	4	60	30	30	74
2	Inter Milan	34	21	9	4	72	28	44	72
3	Napoli	34	20	7	7	61	30	31	67
4	Juventus	34	19	9	6	52	30	22	66
5	Roma	34	17	7	10	55	40	15	58
6	Lazio	34	16	8	10	66	50	16	56
7	Fiorentina	34	17	5	12	54	46	8	56
8	Atalanta	34	15	10	9	61	43	18	55
9	Verona	34	13	10	11	59	51	8	49
10	Sassuolo	34	12	10	12	59	55	4	46
11	Torino	34	11	11	12	42	36	6	44
12	Udinese	34	10	13	11	53	52	1	43
13	Bologna	34	11	9	14	39	48	-9	42
14	Empoli	34	9	10	15	45	62	-17	37
15	Spezia	34	9	6	19	34	59	-25	33
16	Sampdoria	34	8	6	20	41	57	-16	30
17	Cagliari	34	6	10	18	31	62	-31	28
18	Salernitana	33	6	7	20	28	70	-42	25
19	Genoa	34	3	16	15	25	54	-29	25
20	Venezia	33	5	7	21	27	61	-34	22

Spanish LaLiga Standings

#	TEAM	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
1	Real Madrid	33	24	6	3	69	29	40	78
2	Barcelona	33	18	9	6	61	33	28	63
3	Sevilla	33	17	12	4	49	27	22	63
4	Atletico Madrid	33	18	7	8	59	39	20	61
5	Real Betis	33	17	6	10	56	38	18	57
6	Real Sociedad	33	15	10	8	32	31	1	55
7	Villarreal	33	14	10	9	53	31	22	52
8	Athletic Bilbao	33	12	12	9	39	34	5	48
9	Osasuna	33	12	8	13	34	44	-10	44
10	Valencia	33	10	12	11	44	48	-4	42
11	Rayo Vallecano	33	11	7	15	34	38	-4	40
12	Celta Vigo	33	10	9	14	36	37	-1	39
13	Espanyol	33	10	9	14	37	45	-8	39
14	Elche	33	10	8	15	36	44	-8	38
15	Getafe	33	8	11	14	31	37	-6	35
16	Real Mallorca	33	8	8	17	29	54	-25	32
17	Cadiz	33	6	13	14	29	46	-17	31
18	Granada	33	6	12	15	36	56	-20	30
19	Levante	33	5	10	18	41	65	-24	25
20	Alaves	33	6	7	20	26	55	-29	25

German Bundesliga Standings

#	TEAM	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
1	Bayern (c)	31	24	3	4	92	30	62	75
2	Dortmund	31	20	3	8	77	46	31	63
3	Leverkusen	31	16	7	8	72	44	28	55
4	RB Leipzig	31	16	6	9	66	33	33	54
5	SC Freiburg	31	14	10	7	52	37	15	52
6	Union Berlin	31	14	8	9	42	40	2	50
7	Cologne	31	13	10	8	47	45	2	49
8	Hoffenheim	31	13	7	11	52	47	5	46
9	Eintracht	31	10	10	11	42	44	-2	40
10	Mainz	31	11	6	14	43	41	2	39
11	M'gladbach	31	10	8	13	45	58	-13	38
12	Wolfsburg	31	11	4	16	39	51	-12	37
13	Bochum	31	10	6	15	30	45	-15	36
14	FC Augsburg	31	9	8	14	36	47	-11	35
15	Hertha Berlin	31	9	5	17	34	66	-32	32
16	Stuttgart	31	6	10	15	36	55	-19	28
17	Arminia	31	5	11	15	24	49	-25	26
18	Greuther Furth	31	3	8	20	25	76	-51	17

Test Batting

#	PLAYER	RATING	CAREER BEST
1	Marnus Labuschagne	892	936
2	Steve Smith	845	947
3	Kane Williamson	844	919
4	Joe Root	843	917
5	Babar Azam	815	815
6	Dimuth Karunaratne	781	781
7	Usman Khawaja	757	757
8	Rohit Sharma	754	813
9	Travis Head	744	773
10	Virat Kohli	742	937

Test Bowling

#	PLAYER	RATING	CAREER BEST
1	Pat Cummins	901	914
2	R. Ashwin	850	904
3	Jasprit Bumrah	830	835
4	Shaheen Afridi	827	827
5	Kyle Jamieson	820	825
6	Kagiso Rabada	818	902
7	Tim Southee	790	839
8	Neil Wagner	777	859
9	James Anderson	765	903
10	Josh Hazlewood	752	863

ODI Batting

#	PLAYER	RATING	CAREER BEST
1	Babar Azam	891	891
2	Virat Kohli	811	911
3	Imam-ul-Haq	795	795
4	Rohit Sharma	791	885
5	Quinton de Kock	789	813
6	Jonny Bairstow	775	796
7	Ross Taylor	775	841
8	R. van der Dussen	769	776
9	David Warner	750	880
10	Aaron Finch	745	798

ODI Bowling

#	PLAYER	RATING	CAREER BEST
1	Trent Boult	726	770
2	Chris Woakes	700	711
3	Josh Hazlewood	698	733
4	Matt Henry	683	691
5	Mujeeb Ur Rahman	681	712
6	Jasprit Bumrah	679	841
7	Shaheen Afridi	671	671
8	Mehedi Hasan	661	725
9	Shakib Al Hasan	657	717
10	Rashid Khan	650	806

T20I Batting

#	PLAYER	RATING	CAREER BEST
1	Babar Azam	805	896
2	Aiden Markram	796	796
3	Mohammad Rizwan	794	798
4	Dawid Malan	728	915
5	Devon Conway	703	784
6	Aaron Finch	679	900
7	R. van der Dussen	669	780
8	Martin Guptill	658	793
9	Pathum Nissanka	654	685
10	K.L. Rahul	646	854

T20I Bowling

#	PLAYER	RATING	CAREER BEST
1	Tabraiz Shamsi	784	821
2	Adil Rashid	746	746
3	Josh Hazlewood	737	806
4	Adam Zampa	719	743
5	Rashid Khan	714	816
6	Wanindu Hasaranga	687	797
7	Anrich Nortje	655	655
8	Mujeeb Ur Rahman	654	745
9	Nasum Ahmed	637	637
10	Shaheen Afridi	634	634

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Trent Alexander-Arnold — the unicorn of modern full-backs

The 23-year-old Liverpool right-back has reimagined the role of the wide defender under Jurgen Klopp. What makes him exceptional? And why does he get so much criticism despite being hailed as the world's best?

REUTERS
AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Trent Alexander-Arnold is that rare creature in football – one that broadens the definition of his position. For some years now, the full-back has been a two-way player, contributing to both defence and attack. Dani Alves, Philipp Lahm and Marcelo are among the most successful practitioners of the craft in recent years, changing the way the modern full-back is assessed and valued.

Expanding possibilities

What Alexander-Arnold has done at just 23 is expand the possibilities of the role even further. The Liverpool right-back functions as an outlet, a link-player and a creator, both on the flank and in more central areas. Not only is he in zones full-backs have seldom been in before, he does a wider range of things and does them differently to others – and all this at a very high level.

In 2018-19, Alexander-Arnold laid on 12 Premier League assists – a record for a defender – and then improved on the mark the next season, setting up 13 goals as Liverpool won the title. His 16 assists in all competitions so far this season are a club record for any player, not just full-backs, equalling Liverpool great Steven Gerrard. He is in the top 1% of all full-backs in Europe's big five leagues at shot-creating actions, as per stats outlet FBref; he is also in the top 10% at interceptions.

Unique talent

"The way he plays, I don't know any player who plays like Trent in the world," Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp said. "I think in the past some people thought about other full-backs that redefined the position. Maybe they did – but, for sure, he is doing it so far. Where it can end, where it will go to, I don't know. Whatever you set up as a coach, 90% is up to the player, what he makes of it."

Klopp isn't alone in his appreciation. Alves, seen as the prototype for the modern full-back thanks to his penetrating runs and technical ability during his time with a dominant Barcelona side, is a fan as well. The 38-year-old right-back, who returned to Barca this season, was asked by Spanish publication Marca about who he thought was the successor to his throne. "I really like the one from Liverpool, Alexander-Arnold," he said. "He's a fantastic footballer with world-class skills."

Alexander-Arnold's early football education offers a hint of how he became such a talented ball-player. After joining Liverpool's academy at the age of six, he played primarily in midfield when progressing through the ranks – he was viewed by coaches as an exceptionally skilful and dynamic player. His switch to the right side of defence came in the later stages of his time at the academy.

Evolving at Liverpool

The move paid off swiftly: he was handed a senior debut in October 2016. "He developed in a way that nobody could expect exactly," Klopp said, when he was asked whether he knew Alexander-Arnold was a future world-beater when he first saw him.

"This skinny kid came around the corner and you could see he was special, but there was a lot of work to do, especially physically. Look at the first pictures of Trent and now the man he became. Wow! What a difference. It's not that you tell a full-back from the first day, 'so in these situations you are really high, in these situations you are really deep'. You develop that as a team."

Alexander-Arnold's evolution is a consequence of Klopp's principles of play – which, among other things, emphasise positional fluidity as long as key zones on the pitch are filled – and the young right-back's interpretation of them. He knows he doesn't have to just "hold the width" when Liverpool has possession of the ball.

Fluid style

"It always comes from the manager," Alexander-Arnold told The Athletic. "He has set up a system to allow the players to move with fluidity to help the team create moments that win games. He has allowed me to have that freedom to drift inside a little bit more. It helps offensively and defensively. If we lose the ball, there is an extra number in the middle of the park to go and win it back. And when I am getting on the ball, I am in more dangerous areas than just standing out wide.

"There has been a lot of focus this season on the two triangles out wide – so, we have the No. 8 in midfield, the full-back and the winger on each side. It is about making sure, at all times, there should be someone occupying the width, someone high up on the last line and someone in a half-space or in a midfield eight. The manager says it is not too important who it is, just as long as we are occupying those three spaces."

Alexander-Arnold elaborated on some of these themes in an interview with Liverpool's official website. "Obviously me and Mo [Mohamed Salah] are the two ever-present on that [right] side and then whoever comes in – whether it be Hendo [Jordan Henderson], Naby [Keita] or anyone really – it's just flowing. It's just playing with freedom, to be honest – especially more this season.

"It's just a natural sense of where to be at the right time. Just rotating, causing headaches for the opposition and just finding myself in positions where I can hurt the opposition."

Once he has the ball, Alexander-Arnold has the ability to put it on a plate for the attacker. His ball-striking talent is elite, but so is his intuition for knowing just the right moment to release the ball and what type of ball it should be.

Finding runners

"That's the joy, really," he said. "You can hit it to either [Sadio] Mane or Salah and they'll deal with it. I would put Bobby [Firmino] and Diogo [Jota] in that category as well. They are able to deal with any ball you put into them. At times they know you need them just as an out-ball, and then the rest of the time you are able to give them passes with a bit more care."

While Alexander-Arnold's part in Liverpool's attack is widely acclaimed, several critics don't rate his defensive skills.

"I don't understand that, but I don't think I will change that with whatever I say," said Klopp when asked if he knew why the 23-year-old's defensive game attracts scrutiny. "But if he couldn't defend, he would not play here – at least not in that position. His defending is not a problem we have."

Perhaps the criticism stems from the fact that Alexander-Arnold is not often tasked with defending in a style critics expect from the backline.

Given the amount of time Liverpool usually spends in the opposition half and Klopp's method of defending from the front by counter-pressing as a team, he doesn't have to be an elite one-on-one defender; he just needs to cut the obvious mistakes out. In 158 Premier League appearances, he has zero own goals, zero red cards and just two errors leading to a goal, so he is doing all right.

Not flawless

This isn't to say Alexander-Arnold is flawless – he loses more duels and aerial battles than he wins, as per Premier League data. But surely some of the criticism is misplaced. Klopp clearly has had enough. "If anyone says anything about Trent can't defend, they should come to me, I will knock them down," he said after a win over Arsenal when he was again asked about it. "Honestly, I cannot hear it anymore. I don't know what the boy has to do."

What the boy already has done, however, is immense. A Premier League, Champions League, Club World Cup and UEFA Super Cup winner before his 22nd birthday, Alexander-Arnold is a unicorn, given how exceptional he is, and a highly successful one at that.

> The way he plays, I don't know any player who plays like Trent in the world. I think in the past some people thought about other full-backs that redefined the position. Maybe they did – but, for sure, Alexander-Arnold is doing it
>
> JURGEN KLOPP, Liverpool manager

GETTY IMAGES

> It is about wanting to be the best player on the pitch. Every time I step out there, I want to be the best version of myself. I hold high standards. If I am not at the levels I want to be at, then I won't be happy.

> Whether I'm getting assists or goals is important but not as important as the three points. As long as I've got my hands on some silverware at the end of season, it won't really bother me what my numbers are looking like. ALEXANDER-ARNOLD

ALEXANDER-ARNOLD IN THE PREMIER LEAGUE

APPEARANCES	158
WINS	112
LOSSES	19
GOALS	10
ASSISTS	45
OWN GOALS	0
RED CARDS	0
ERRORS LEADING TO GOAL	2

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GAME THEORY

German football's juggernaut

Bayern Munich won its 10th consecutive Bundesliga title, with three games to spare, to extend its dominance of the German top-flight. Not only has no club in Europe's big five football leagues (England, France, Germany, Italy and Spain) won as many league championships in a row, but also no German club has won more crowns since the Bundesliga was founded in 1963. We take a statistical look at Bayern's supremacy:

MOST BUNDESLIGA TITLES

Club	Titles	Runner-up	Most recent title
Bayern Munich	31	10	2021-22
Borussia Dortmund	5	7	2011-12
Borussia Monchengladbach	5	2	1976-77
Werder Bremen	4	7	2003-04
Hamburger SV	3	5	1982-83

MOST GOALS FOR BAYERN THIS SEASON

Player	Goals	Bundesliga rank
Robert Lewandowski	33	No. 1
Serge Gnabry	13	No. 6
Leroy Sane	7	No. 21
Thomas Muller	7	No. 21
Kingsley Coman	6	No. 29

MOST ASSISTS FOR BAYERN THIS SEASON

Player	Assists	Bundesliga rank
Thomas Muller	17	No. 1
Joshua Kimmich	10	No. 3
Leroy Sane	7	No. 12
Jamal Musiala	5	No. 25
Serge Gnabry	5	No. 25
Dayot Upamecano	5	No. 25

LEWANDOWSKI

GNABRY

MULLER

KIMMICH

METRICS IN WHICH BAYERN LEADS BUNDESLIGA THIS SEASON

Metric	Value	Next best
Goals	92	77 (Dortmund)
Shots	621	455 (Gladbach)
Pass success%	87.2%	85.7% (Dortmund)
Possession	60%	56% (Dortmund)
Sprints	7,817	7,698 (Augsburg)

SOURCE: BUNDESLIGA

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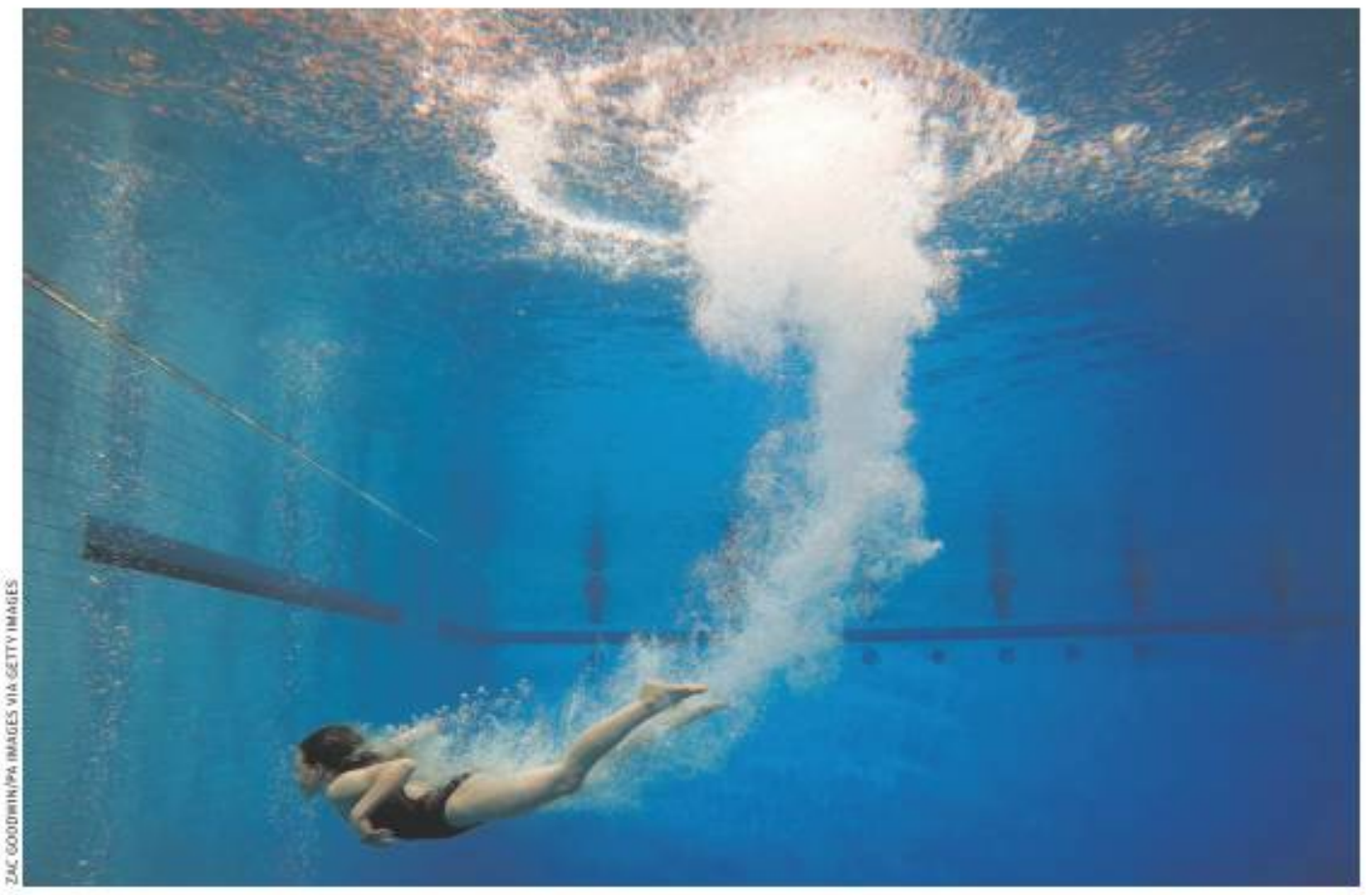

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Unmaking a splash

Diving is the sport of launching oneself into water from a platform or springboard.

The acrobatics prior to hitting the water is diving's most spectacular aspect, but the actual entry carries a lot of significance too. It's one of three aspects – the approach and the flight, the others – on which dives are scored.

The angle of entry is important: the straighter it is, the higher the dive is likely to be scored. The amount of splash created is vital too: the smaller the splash, the higher the points.

Although a vertical entry is the ideal, it's impossible to achieve, given the acrobatics involved beforehand; the body will have some rotational momentum before hitting the water.

So divers use a variety of techniques, depending on the style and difficulty of the dive, to create the illusion of an almost vertical entry.

The 'rip entry' is perhaps the most popular method to minimise splash. Divers use one hand to grasp the other, with the palms down so they strike the water flat.

This creates a 'hole' in the water's surface, allowing the diver's entire body to get sucked into it and there is minimal effect on the surface.

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Language cannot be an area of controversy or barrier: Pradhan

NCF panel has recommended mother tongue and local language: Union Minister

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Dignitaries releasing the mandate document for the National Curriculum Framework in Bengaluru on Friday. • K. MURALI KUMAR

Batting for mother tongue and regional language, Union Minister for Education Dharmendra Pradhan stressed that language cannot be an area of controversy or a barrier.

He was speaking after releasing the mandate document of the National Curricular Framework (NCF) here on Friday.

The Union Minister's statement assumes significance, given the ongoing debate on "national language". "Those who want to do politics about language, my wishes to them," he said.

Mr. Pradhan said that the NCF committee has recommended mother tongue and local language. "As an Education Minister, I admit candidly that I formulate my thoughts in Odia, translate it into Hindi and communicate it in English... this is the criticality of the area; language should not create an artificial barrier. We should create an ecosystem for innovative, critical thinking in a child," he said.

He also pointed out that both Japan and Germany were not dependent on English and emphasised on their own languages.

Hailing the mandate document, he said it was time to decolonise the education system and added that the documents should be the instrument of tranformational change in livelihoods and dignity of people. The current education system is certificate and degree centric and linked to social prestige, he pointed out, adding that skilling, vocational education and knowledge is not properly evaluated. "The National Education Policy has recommended the link between education and skill," he said.

K. Kasturirangan, chairman of the National Steering Committee for NCF, said the mandate document was an important milestone in defining the school education of the future. For the first time, early childhood care education and adult education have been included in the curricular framework.

"We need to provide flexibility, coherence and integration, and a common platform in which whatever you want to learn in school education are brought together, seen in totality and then segmented according to the needs of a particular stage. That is precisely what we have done in the mandate document," he said.

Dr. Kasturirangan also said that the mandate document would lead to an education system at the school level which will stand the test of time and also respond to changing dynamics of the knowledge spectrum.

Manjul Bhargava, member of the National Steering Committee, NCF and chairperson of the mandate committee, and Anita Karwal, secretary, Department of School Education and Literacy, Ministry of Education, spoke about the different aspects of the mandate document.

'Micro action plans needed to improve air quality'

KSPCB chairman was speaking at a data dissemination, capacity building event

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

There is a need for micro action plans that will help pollution control boards to take effective, result-oriented action towards improving air quality, said Shanth A. Thimmaiah, Chairman, Karnataka State Pollution Control Board. (KSPCB)

He was speaking at a data dissemination and capacity building event for over 50 government officials from Karnataka by the Centre for Study of Science, Technology and Policy (CSTEP), which had recently released two studies: 'Emission Inventory and Pollution Reduction Strategies for Bengaluru' and 'Identification of Polluting Sources for Bengaluru.'

The study findings revealed that Bengaluru can see possible concentration reductions of -26.5%, -13.5%, and -9.6%, respectively, for high-, medium-, and low-emission reduction scenarios (measures clubbed with varying levels of compliance) for both PM_{10} and $PM_{2.5}$ by 2024. Key measures considered under the scenarios were improvement in public transportation infrastructure, diesel particulate filter installation in trucks, and a strict ban on open waste burning.

Vijay Mohan Raj, Principal Secretary, Ecology and Environment Department, Government of Karnataka said "air guilt" – the guilt that comes from knowing that we are contributing to air pollution and how – needs to be felt by all and drive our actions. Pratima Singh, Research Scientist at CSTEP who led the study, observed that considering Bengaluru's status as a non-attainment city, conducting a scientific assessment through source apportionment and emission inventory was crucial towards preparing strategies.

CSTEP is working with the KSPCB and BBMP to help implement the recommendations.

THE HINDU
PROPERTY PLUS
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http://www.thehindu.com/features/homes-and-gardens

In the lap of luxury

A posh villa without proper infrastructure or a matching neighbourhood, and with civic problems, will remain a liability. Think before you choose, says **GUNJAN GOEL**

Investing in real estate is always a good idea as it is the only constant asset which has proven to give the highest returns on investments consistently. When a serial investor is looking to diversify his portfolio, he is extremely careful about the micro-markets, product and pricing of the projects under consideration to be able to seek high returns on the same. Here are a few tips that will let you reap better benefits from your prized investment in the long run, especially if you want to add luxury properties to your investment portfolio.

Lifestyle quotient

Like every field of life, goal setting is very important before investing in a luxe property. Ask yourself the pertinent questions. Is it for the return on investment (ROI) purpose or for self-use? Do you wish to earn a rental income from the property? If you wish to make a quick buck, location becomes very important and you might have to invest in a more popular location. However, if you wish to reside in a luxury property, does it have all the amenities and infrastructure suiting your lifestyle? Asking the right questions might help you identify the right property, at the right price and at the right location.

> If the purpose of your investment is resale, you might take a short-term loan, renovate the premises and resell it. Short-term loans are easier to get and repay than traditional loans.

Money matters

You must not splurge just because you can spend. Period. Though you are searching for a prized property and you might have deep pockets, it is always advisable to set your finances in order. You must be clear with the source of money. You might want to use the surplus money or you might avail yourself of bank credit to buy the property concerned. It must be clear in your mind. If the purpose of your investment is resale, you might take a short-term loan, renovate the premise and resell it. Short-term loans are easier to get and repay than traditional loans. However, the rate of interest might be high. Additionally, you must bargain. Just because you have the money does not mean the price should be unreasonable. After all, it is an investment and money saved is money earned. Bargain professionally and grab the best deal.

SAFE DEAL: Asking the right questions might help you identify the right property, at the right price and at the right location.

Location is paramount

It is a given that in all property investments, locations remain the second most important factor after finances. It is the location on which the ROI potential of the property will depend.

A luxury villa without proper infrastructure, not in a classy neighbourhood and with civic problems will remain a liability and will fetch very poor or negative returns, even after years.

Choose the location of the luxury property wisely, as in high-end realty transactions, location decides the present and resale value of the property.

It must be ensured that the luxury property is closer to the city (closer the better) and the neighbourhood matches the class you aspire to live with. A palatial villa in an underdeveloped location is nothing more than a liability.

Research and move ahead

Herd behaviour can be very risky. Just because your friend is investing in a location without research does not mean you should too. You must perform comprehensive research about the previous property appreciation trend and future expectations from the region.

An upcoming metro line can be beneficial but an upcoming airport might lead to land acquisition by the exchequer. After all, it is an investment, a pocket-heavy one and you must be clear with all the nitty-gritty involved.

The writer is Director, Goel Ganga Development.

Brand value is key

When it comes to luxury, one does not mind paying an extra premium for a branded product. This is because it comes with a huge amount of trust in quality and longevity of the product. Similarly, one must not be carried away by lucrative steal offers or discounts when it comes to investing in luxury homes. One must evaluate the brand value of the developer and trust those who have a track record of consistent delivery and quality. The luxury property investment is a pocket-heavy decision and being doubly sure of the location, pricing and amenities might go a long way in determining the ROI potential of the property.

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THE HINDU

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Acid attack: Five teams formed to nab suspect

'We have leads based on CCTV footage'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

The police have formed five special teams to nab the garment worker, Nagesh, who allegedly threw acid on a young woman who refused to marry him.

"We have some leads based on CCTV footage from the area. He may have met a lawyer before fleeing. We are working on the lead and we will catch him soon," a senior police official said.

The police teams have fanned out across the city and his hometown trying to track him down.

His phone has been switched off, the police said.

Woman stable

Meanwhile, the victim who has suffered over 30% burns is said to be stable, sources said. Her father recorded his statement at the Kamakshipalya police station on how Nagesh had been stalking his daughter and about the unfortunate turn of events on Friday.

Summer showers

Motorists on Mysuru Road were caught unawares by the downpour on Friday. ▪K. MURALI KUMAR

Accountant stabbed to death at home

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

An accountant was stabbed to death at his home in M.K. Nagar on Thursday night. The victim has been identified as Shankar Reddy, 35.

The incident allegedly happened when Shankar Reddy and his wife were at home. His wife in her complaint to the police claimed a man barged into the house at around midnight and attacked her. She said she fell unconscious and by the time she woke up she found her husband stabbed and lying in a pool of blood. Yeshwantpur police have registered a case and are investigating.

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Personal / Virtual Interview

Applications are invited for the selection of Therapist (Male) - One, Sociologist (Female) - One for various IMR projects at SCRI, Chennai and SRF Publication - One for Journal of Research in Siddha Medicine at CCRS, Chennai through Personal / Virtual Interview which will be held on the date to be notified later. The last date for submission of the online application is 14.05.2022 (05.00. P.M.). Details are available in the website **www.siddhacouncil.com** and **www.crisiddha.tn.nic.in**

Walk-in Interview

Walk in interview for the post of JRF (Pharmacology) - One in IMR research project will be held in the above address on 18.05.2022 at 10.00 a.m. Details available in the website www.siddhacouncil.com and www.crisiddha.tn.nic.in

Director (Scientist-III) I/C

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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS

(Department of Road Transport & Highways), New Delhi

PUBLIC NOTICE

No.: LAQ/NH-844/CR/01/2021-22 **Date: 18.04.2022**

As per the powers vested under sec. 3D(1) and (2) of National Highways Act 1956 (48 of 1956) with amended act of 1997, Central Government has acquired the land specified in Schedule below, for building (widening/four laning etc.), maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No.844 on the stretch of land from km.0.000 to 10.400 (Neraluru-Rayakottai-Dharmapuri section of NH-844) in Bangalore Urban District in the State of Karnataka. This notification has been published on 07.04.2022 in the Gazette of India, PART-II Section 3 Sub-Section (ii) under S.O.1688 (E) dated 07.04.2022.

Under the provisions of Sub Sec.(1)(2)(3) and (4) of Sec-3G of National Highways Act 1956, the public notice is hereby issued to the owners/interested person of the lands, to produce the following documents either by themselves or by their representatives, on the date and time, at the place, specified below: (1) Original records, (2) Sale/Partition/other deeds showing the land ownership/title, (3) R.T.C of the present year, (4) Latest e-swattu property document of the Grama Panchayath (5) Receipt for having paid Assessment upto date (completely), (6) Copy of the Mutation register extract, any other relevant documents, and also the proof of documents in justification of the ownership of land.

If anybody fails to produce the above documents to the undersigned on or within the date and time specified below, the compensation will be awarded as per the records available in this office.

Address to be contacted by land owners/interested persons for enquiry	Date and Time of enquiry	Name of the Taluk and Name of the Village
Office of the SLAO AND CA, National Highways Authority of India, NH-844, Bangalore Urban District, #678/3, Neerubhavi Kempanna Layout, Hebbal, Bangalore – 560024.	Within 15 days from the date of Public Notice Published in the Newspaper only on working days.	**Anekal Taluk** 1. Halehalli 2. Madivala 3. Maranayakanahalli 4. Marasuru Agrahara 5. Mayasandra 6. Samanduru 7. Thirumagondanahalli 8. Neraluru 9. Kamblipura

MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS

NOTIFICATIONS

New Delhi, the 18th April 2022.

S.O.2946 (E) dated 27.07.2021 whereas by the notification of the Government of India in the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, issued under Sub-Section(1) of section of 3A of the National Highways Act 1956 (48 of 1956) (hereinafter referred to as the said Act), and published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary No. 2740, Part II, Section 3, Sub Section(ii), dated 27.07.2021 the Central Government declared its intention to acquire the land specified in the schedule appended to the said notification for the public purpose of (Widening/four laning etc.), maintenance management and operation of the National Highway **No. 844** in the land on the stretch from Km 0.00 to Km 10.4 (NH-844 Neraluru-Rayakottaiah-Dharmapuri Section) in Bangalore Urban District in the State of Karnataka.

And whereas the substance of the said notification has been published in "Vijayvani Karnataka" Newspaper (Kannada) and "The Hindu" Newspaper (English) both dated 21st August 2021 under Sub-Section (3) of Section 3A of the said Act.

And whereas, objections have been received by the Competent Authority from persons on the use of acquired land, these objections have been heard by the competent authority for the purpose mentioned in the said notification.

And whereas in pursuance of sub-section (1) of section 3D of the said Act, the Competent Authority has submitted its report to the Central Government.

Now, therefore upon receipt of the said report of the competent authority and in exercise of the powers conferred by Sub-Section (1) of Section 3D of the said Act, the Central Government hereby declares vide S.O.1688 (E) dated 07.04.2022 published in Gazette No. 1605 dated 07.04.2022 that the lands specified in the schedule should be acquired for the purpose.

And further, on the publication of this notification in the Official Gazette, the land specified in the Schedule annexed here to shall vest absolutely with the Central Government free from all encumbrances under sub-Section (2) of section 3D of the said Act.

SCHEDULE

Brief description of the land to be acquired with or without structure, falling within the stretch of land from Km.0.00 to Km. 10.4 in Project of Neraluru-Rayakottaiah-Dharmapuri Section National Highway No.844 Bangalore Urban District in the State of Karnataka.

Sl. No.	Survey Number	Type of Land	Nature of Land	Area in Hectares	Name of Land Owner/ Interested person
1	2	3	4	5	6
Taluk : Anekal					**Village : Halehalli**
1	100	Private	Dry	0.0003	1. Chandrareddy S/o Late Doddamuniswamy Reddy 100/1
2	100	Private	Dry	0.0928	1. Ramachandrareddy S/o Late. Krishnareddy 2. Vijayakumar S/o Late. Chowdareddy 100/2
3	100	Private	Dry	0.0891	1. Gopalareddy 2. Srinivasareddy 100/3
4	100	Private	Dry	0.0202	1. Muniyamma 100/4
5	101	Private	Dry	0.106	1. Chikkammayya D/o Chikkagullappa 101/1
6	101	Private	Dry	0.0422	1. Krishnamma D/o Papanna 101/2
7	102/1	Private	Dry	0.0432	1. Premavathi D/o Y. Narayanareddy 102/1
8	102/2	Private	Dry	0.0983	1. Gopalareddy 2. Srinivasareddy 102/2
9	102/3	Private	Dry	0.0069	1. Gopalareddy 2. Srinivasareddy 102/3
10	103	Private	Dry	0.062	1. Papareddy S/o Munireddy 103/1
11	104	Private	Dry	0.068	1. Srinivasareddy S/o Munireddy 2. K.Amareshreddy S/o Late. N. Krishnareddy 3. K. Nanjareddy S/o Late. N. Krishnareddy 104/2
12	105	Private	Dry	0.0013	1. Dolappa 105/5
13	107/3	Private	Dry	0.051	1. Pushpalatha W/o M. Ramachandra 107/3
14	107/4	Private	Dry	0.0473	1. Papareddy 2. Venkatareddy 3. Srinivasareddy 4. N. Krishnareddy 107/4
15	107/5	Private	Dry	0.0339	1. Dyavegowda 107/5
16	107/6	Private	Dry	0.001	1. Nallamma W/o Gullappa 107/6
17	107/8	Private	Dry	0.1012	1. K S Venkataswamy S/o Late. Sriramreddy 107/8
18	139	Private	Dry	0.0488	1. Muniyellappa 2.Munikrishnappa Rajendra 3. Kanakaraju S/o Late. Kenchappa/Kenchaiah 4. Nagaraju, Muniswamy S/o Late. Chinnappaiah 139
19	140	Private	Dry	0.0518	1. Vanaja W/o Late. M. Chowdareddy 2. C. Chaithra D/o Late. Chowdareddy 3. C. Sandhya D/o Late. Chowdareddy 140
20	141	Private	Dry	0.1448	1. Vanaja W/o Late. M. Chowdareddy 2. C. Chaithra D/o Late. Chowdareddy 3. C. Sandhya D/o Late. Chowdareddy 4. Narayanareddy S/o C. Yellappa/Yellareddy Dry land 141/1 (Dry)
21	141	Private	Wet	0.0011	1. Junjappa 141/2
22	141	Private	Wet	0.0192	1. Thimmareddy 2. Narayanareddy S/o Late. C. Yellappa/Yellareddy 141/3
23	145	Private	Dry	0.0621	1. B.R. Pushpalatha W/o M. Ramachandra 145/3
24	145	Private	Dry	0.0004	1. Thimmareddy 2. M Krishnappa S/o Narayanappa 145/2
25	146/3	Private	Dry	0.0236	1. Narayanamma W/o Late. Y.Ramaswamyreddy 146/3
26	77	Private	Dry	0.0369	1. L. Narayanareddy S/o Lingareddy 77/1
27	91	Private	Dry	0.0334	1. Ramaiah 2. Narayana S/o Ramaiah/Chitti Yellappa 91/1
28	94	Private	Dry	0.0784	1. H R Shivarudraiah S/o Rudrappa 94
29	95	Govt	Kharab	0.0565	1. Government 95
30	97	Private	Dry	0.0012	1. Muniyappa 97/2
31	98	Private	Dry	0.1596	1. H P Ravikumar S/o Papanna 98/1
32	98	Private	Dry	0.1518	1. Doddagundappa S/o Munishyamappa 98/2
33	99	Private	Dry	0.0792	1. M. Thimmareddy S/o Late. T. Muniswamyreddy 99/1
34	99	Private	Dry	0.0226	1. M. Thimmareddy S/o Late. T. Muniswamyreddy 99/2
35	Kaluve 1	Govt	Kharab	0.0808	1. Government - Kaluve 1
36	Kaluve 2	Govt	Kharab	0.0086	1. Government - Kaluve 2
Taluk : Anekal					**Village : Kamblipura**
37	34/2	Private	Dry	0.0047	1. T Kondareddy S/o Thimmarayappa 2. K Ashokumar S/o T Kondareddy 34/2
Taluk : Anekal					**Village : Madivala**
38	153/3	Private	Dry	0.0358	1. Papareddy S/o Late Chinnaswamyreddy 2. R Nageshreddy S/o N Ramachandrareddy 153/3
39	155/1E	Private	Dry	0.0006	1. Renuka S/o Krishnareddy 155/1E
40	155/1D	Private	NAK	0.1126	1. L Keshavareddy S/o Lakshmareddy 155/1D
41	162	Private	NAK	0.0073	1. V. Srinath S/o Venkataswamyreddy 2. Kavitha Bhat N W/o Rajaram 3. P C Kamala W/o Y G Bhaskar (Converted Land) 4. P C Kamala W/o Y G Bhaskar (Converted) 5. C Mohan S/o Padmanabhaiah 6. Muniyamma W/o Late Lakshmaiah 162
42	167/3	Private	NAK	0.1307	1. Mohan C S/o Late C Padmanabhaiah (Converted Land) 167/3
43	195/1	Private	Dry	0.0255	1. Channappareddy 2. L Keshavareddy S/o Lakshmareddy 3. K Muniraju S/o Kempaiah 4. L Manjula D/o Lakshmareddy 195/1
44	195/2	Private	Dry	0.0567	1. C Mohan S/o Late Padmanabhaiah (Converted Land) 195/2
45	205/2	Private	Dry	0.0248	1. V Narayanareddy S/o T Venkataswamyreddy 205/2
46	213	Private	Dry	0.005	1. N Nanjareddy S/o Late Nyathareddy 2. M Nanjareddy S/o Late N Munireddy 213
47	222/2	Private	NAK	0.0003	1. Gowramma W/o Late Narayanareddy 2. Kamalamma 222/2
48	224/2	Private	NAK	0.0207	1. Gowramma W/o Late Narayanareddy 2. Kamalamma 224/2
49	224/4	Private	Dry	0.0182	1. B S Manjunath S/o Late Shivaramareddy 224/4
50	228/1	Private	Dry	0.01	1. Prakashreddy (Converted Land) 228/1
Taluk : Anekal					**Village : Maranayakanahalli**
51	29/2	Private	Dry	0.0013	1.M Krishnareddy S/o Late Munireddy 2. N Sudha W/o Late Ramesh Reddy 3. Veerareddy N B S/o N Umeshreddy S/o. Late Nanjundareddy 29/2
52	39/1	Private	NAK	0.0017	1. For M/s Vikram Logistic Mary time Services Pvt. Ltd., Ranganathagowda (Converted land) 39/1
53	43/3	Private	Dry	0.0352	1. Chikkapapanna S/o Late Gonur Papaiah 43/3
54	45/1	Private	Dry	0.0053	1. Aluvelamma W/o Y Venkatesh 45/1
55	45/4	Private	Dry	0.4189	1. P Muniraju S/o Late Papanna @ Doddapapanna 2. P Venkataraju S/o Papanna @ Doddapapanna 3. P Ramakrishna S/o Late Papanna @ Doddapapanna 4. P Nagesh S/o Late Papanna @ Doddapapanna 45/4
56	45/5	Private	Dry	0.2965	1. Shivaramaiah S/o Srinivasaiah & Railway 45/5
Taluk : Anekal					**Village : Marsuru Agrahara**
57	13/3	Private	Dry	0.0615	1. B Srinivasareddy S/o Late Bodareddy 13/3
58	13/4	Private	Dry	0.0425	1. B Nyathareddy S/o Late Bodareddy 13/4
59	Kaluve	Govt	Kharab	0.0204	1. Government - Kaluve
Taluk : Anekal					**Village : Mayasandra**
60	21/2	Govt	Dry	0.0172	1. Kambalipura Sri Basavanna Devaru 21/2
61	22/4	Private	Wet	0.0981	1. N Keshavareddy S/o Narayanareddy 22/4
62	22/5	Private	Wet	0.0333	1. P Chandrareddy S/o Puttareddy 22/5
63	24/1	Private	Wet	0.0001	1. Gowramma W/o Shamanna 24/1
64	259/2	Private	Dry	0.0335	1. Yellamma W/o Late Puttanna 2. Nagaraju S/o Late Puttanna 3. Shivakumar S/o Late Puttanna 4. Mallesh S/o Late Puttanna 5. Venkateshachari, Subbachari S/o Late Sampangi Ramachari (Converted land) 259/2
65	259/4	Private	Dry	0.1447	1. Venkateshachari, Subbachari S/o Late Sampangi Ramachari (Converted land) 259/4
66	259/6	Private	NAK	0.1518	1. Venkatesh S/o Late Munishamappa (Converted land) 259/6
67	259/8	Private	NAK	0.1436	1. Muniraju S/o Late Munishamappa (Converted land) 259/8
68	260/2	Private	Dry	0.004	1. K M Bhagyalakshmi D/o Late Muniramaiah 2. M Geetha D/o Late Muniramaiah 3. M Manjula D/o Late Muniramaiah 4. M Padma D/o Late Muniramaiah 260/2
69	260/3	Private	Dry	0.0005	1. Venkatalakshmamma W/o Late K Narayanappa 260/3
70	260/4	Private	Dry	0.0173	1. M Narayana S/o Late Yellappa 260/4
71	330	Private	Wet	0.0095	1. M Anandareddy S/o Late N Munireddy 2. N Chandrappa 3. Shanthamma W/o Late K N Nagarajareddy 330
72	347	Private	Wet	0. 0106	1. Honnagiriyappa S/o Gullanna 2. A Motappa S/o Gullappa 3. A Gullappa @ Abbaiah 4. Muniyamma D/o Erappa 5. Nanjappa S/o Late Lakshmaiah 6. K Arunchandra S/o Late Kemapanna 7. Honnagiriyamma W/o Late Nanjappa 8. Muniyappa S/o Late Venkataramanappa 9. Narayanaswamy, Anand S/o Late Sampangi 10. Rathnamma W/o Late Sampangi 347
73	357/2	Private	Wet	0.027	1. Yellappa S/o Kunjappa 357/2
74	376/2	Private	Wet	0.0432	1. D Manjunatha S/o Doreswamy 2. R Narayanappa S/o Ramkrishnappa 376/2
75	380/5	Private	Wet	0.0625	1. G Venkatesh S/o Govindappa 380/5
76	Kaluve-4	Govt	Kharab	0.0367	1. Government - Kaluve-4
Taluk : Anekal					**Village : Neraluru**
77	108/5	Private	Dry	0.044	1. Shanthamma D/o Nanjundareddy 108/5
78	115/1	Private	NAK	0.1318	2. Sandappa S/o Chinnaiah (Converted) 115/1
79	116	Private	Dry	0.0287	3. N Madhusudhan S/o Srinivas 116
80	118/1	Private	Dry	0.0236	1. K.H. Khan S/o Late. N A Khan 118/1
81	120/2	Private	NAK	0.1514	1. K H Khan - (Converted) 120/2
82	120/1	Private	Dry	0.1181	1. Munibellaiah S/o Chennaiah 2. Rajamma W/o Yellappa 3. Srinivasa, Saraswathi, Muniyamma D/o Yellappa 120/1
83	121/1	Private	NAK	0.065	1. Kasthuri W/o Krishnareddy 2. Ravi S/o Late Munishamappa 3. K.H. Khan 121/1
84	121/2	Private	NAK	0.0609	1. Ravi S/o Late Munishamappa 121/2
85	121/3	Private	NAK	0.0345	1. K H Khan S/o N A Khan (Alienated) 121/3
86	123/1	Private	NAK	0.0047	1. B Srinivasareddy S/o Biddareddy - (Converted) 123/1
87	123/2	Private	Dry	0.0288	1. Balaramaiah S/o Late Muniyangappa 123/2
88	123/5	Private	Dry	0.019	1. Lakshman S/o Late Kariswamy, L Vanitha W/o. K Lakshman 123/5
89	123/6	Private	Dry	0.0216	1. Lakshman S/o Late Kariswamy, L Vanitha W/o K Lakshman 123/6
90	123/3	Private	NAK	0.0315	1.T. Rajappa S/o Ramswamy 2. Kasthuri W/o G.Krishnareddy Converted) 3. T. Rajappa S/o Ramswamy 123/3
91	123/4	Private	Dry	0.3640	S. Yellappa S/o Late. Sandappa 123/4
92	123/7	Private	Dry	0.0551	1. T Yellareddy S/o Biddareddy 123/7
93	124/1	Private	NAK	0.0093	1. K H Khan - (Converted) 124/1
94	124/2	Private	NAK	0.0001	1. K H Khan - (Converted) 124/2
95	125/1	Private	Dry	0.0005	1. Gullappa S/o Late Sandappa 125/1
96	125/2	Private	Dry	0.0021	1. S. Nagarajaiah S/o Late Sandappa 125/2
97	125/3	Private	Dry	0.0135	1. Narayanappa S/o Late Sandappa 125/3
98	125/4	Private	Dry	0.0089	1. Sandappa S/o Muniyappa 2. Gullappa S/o Sandappa 125/4
99	125/5	Private	Dry	0.0094	1. K Chandrashekhar, K Nandish Kumar S/o Krishnappa 125/5
100	126	Private	Dry	0.0012	1. S Yellappa 126/1
101	126/2	Private	Dry	0.0024	1. Gullappa S/o Late Sandappa 126/2
102	128	Private	NAK	0.0886	1. K H Khan S/o Late. N A Khan- (Converted) 128
103	129	Private	NAK	0.5414	B Srinivasareddy S/o Biddareddy - (Converted) 129/1
104	129	Private	Dry	0.209	T Yallareddy S/o Biddareddy 129/2 (Dry land)
105	130/1	Private	Dry	0.0574	1. Narayanappa S/o Kenchappa 2. Gowramma W/o Late. Chinnappa 130/1
106	130/2	Private	Dry	0.3113	1. Muniyappa S/o Angaiyappa 2. Nagaraju S/o Late. Kalappa 3. Muniyamma W/o Late. Krishnappa 4. Rajappa S/o Late Kenchappa 5. Gowramma W/o Late. Chennappa 6. Narayanappa S/o Late. Kenchappa 130/2
107	130/3	Private	Dry	0.0721	1. Yerramma W/o Late. Muniyengappa 2. National Highway 3. Muniyamma W/o Late Muniramaiah 130/3
108	131	Private	Garden	0.0336	1. Munishamareddy S/o Erareddy 2. Jagadishwareddy S/o Venugpal Reddy, Venugopala 131/1A1
109	131	Private	Garden	0.0794	1. Munishamareddy S/o Erareddy 2. Jagadishwareddy S/o Venugpal Reddy, Venugopala 131/1A2
110	131	Private	Garden	0.0464	1. Sheshappa Reddy S/o Doddappaiah Munishamareddy 2. Krishnareddy S/o Doddappaiah-Munishamareddy 3. Kamalamma D/o Late Munishamireddy 131/1B
111	131	Private	Garden	0.0948	1. N M Ramachandra S/o Munisamireddy 131/2
112	131	Private	Garden	0.0183	1. M Ramareddy S/o Chikkamunireddy (Converetd) 2. Rsudharani W/o B R Prasannakumar (Converted) 3. Shanthamma W/o Late Ramareddy 131/3
113	131	Private	Garden	0.0705	1. Nagaraju S/o Chikkamunireddy 131/5
114	133	Private	Dry	0.0706	1. Erappa S/o Muniswamappa, Ammayamma, Indramma, Sunanda 2. P. Chinnaiah S/o Late Piriyanna, P Yellappa S/o Late Piriyanna 3. Ramaiah, Lakshmaiah S/o Late Muniswami 4. M. Sridhar S/o Muniswamappa 5. Rajappa S/o Ramaiah, M. Sathyanarayana, Shamshuddin, Sannur Ali S K, Sathyanarayana, Sathyanarayana S/o Mohan 6. T. Rameshbabu S/o P Thimmareddy 7. T. Rameshbabu S/o P Thimmareddy 8. H N Ramesh S/o H K Nagarajarao 9. T. Rameshbabu S/o Late Thimmareddy 10. Nagaraja G S S/o Shekharappa G 11. Sidrama S/o Mallinatha Manoli 12. Basappa Ingaleshwar S/o Hanumantharai 13. Bhanumathi W/o N Udayakumar 14. Anumathi V S W/o Sundaran S 15. C Gopal S/o Chikkathayappa 16. Arunamma W/o Dhanapal 17. C Gopal S/o Chikkathayappa 18. M Sridhar S/o Munishamappa 19. G Srinivasulu S/o Late G Yerrappa 20. Uma Maheshbabu N S/o N Mallikarjuna 21. Vamshikumar N S/o N Mallikarjuna 133/1
115	142-Tank	Govt	Tank	0.8551	Tank - 142
116	74	Private	Dry	0.025	1. Thimmareddy S/o Late. Sentireddy 74/1
117	74	Private	Dry	0.0297	1. N C Mallareddy S/o Chowdareddy 74/2
118	74	Private	Dry	0.0153	1. M Rajappareddy S/o Mallareddy 2. Gullareddy S/o T Mallareddy 74/3
119	75	Private	Dry	0.0258	1. Gullareddy S/o Munireddy 2. Kamalamma W/o Rajappareddy 3. Gurrappareddy S/o Mallareddy 4. N Gopalareddy S/o Mallareddy 5. Manjula W/o Venkataramanareddy 6. Latha Lokesh W/o Lokesh 75/1
120	75	Private	Dry	0.026	1. Chowdareddy S/o Thimmareddy 75/2
121	75	Private	Dry	0.0303	1. Gullareddy S/o Munireddy 2. Radhamma D/o Muniswamyreddy 3. Venkatalakshmamma W/o Late Krishnareddy 75/3
122	75	Private	Dry	0.0268	1. K N Ramesh 75/4
Taluk : Anekal					**Village : Samanduru**
123	357	Private	Dry	0.0134	1. Anil Kumar S/o Late Krishnareddy 2. L Venukumar S/o Late Lakshmanareddy 357
124	85/2	Private	Wet	0.2186	1. S Muniyappa S/o Late Chikkasonnappa 85/2
Taluk : Anekal					**Village : Thirumagondanahalli**
125	3	Govt	Dry	0.0051	1. Government (3/1)
126	3	Govt	Dry	0.0675	1. N Narayanareddy S/o Nandireddy (Converted) 2. Government 3. Land Acquisition for NHAI (Private - NAK Land) 3/2 (Private - NAK Land) 3/2
127	4	Private	NAK	0.1961	1. N.Narayanareddy S/o Nandireddy (Converted) 2. Land Acquisition for National Highways. 4
128	74	Private	NAK	0.0025	1. Doddabodappa @Bodappa S/o Late. Nanjappa@Thotinanjappa - Land Conversion 2. Muniyappa S/o Doddabodappa @Bodappa - Land Conversion 3. Narayanappa S/o Doddabodappa - Land Conversion 4. Srinivasa S/o Doddabodappa - Land Conversion 74
129	75	Private	NAK	0.0658	1. Muniyellappa S/o Chinnaiah 2. Erappa 3. Government 4. Muniyellappa S/o Chinnaiah (Alienated) 5. Erappa S/o Late. Donnelappa 6. Ramaiah S/o Late. Narayanreddy 7. Rathnamma W/o Muniswamireddy 8. Lakshmaiah 75/1
130	75	Private	NAK	0.0254	1. Parthasarathy K S S/o Sanjeevmurthy Shetty K K-LC 75/2
131	76	Private	NAK	0.0101	1. V Venkatesh S/o Venkamarappa-LAC 76/3
132	80	Private	Dry	0.0079	1. A.Khaleel Ahmed S/o Ameerjan 2. U. Mahendrakumar 80/1
133	80	Private	Dry	0.0154	1. Manjula.T W/o B Srinivasareddy 80/2
134	80	Private	Dry	0.0005	1. Manjula.T W/o B Srinivasareddy 80/3
135	80	Private	Dry	0.0138	1. Girijamma W/o K Ramesh 80/4
136	80	Private	Dry	0.0015	RTC not available 80/6
137	81	Private	Dry	0.0417	1. T.Manjula D/o Late. Thimmareddy 2. Manjula.T W/o B Srinivasareddy 81/2
138	81	Private	Dry	0.0115	1. Manjula.T W/o B Srinivasareddy 81/3
139	82	Private	NAK	0.113	1.Thimmaiah S/o Thayappa (Alienated) 82/2
140	82	Private	NAK	0.0471	1. Manjula D/o Thimmareddy 82/3
141	82	Private	NAK	0.0092	1. Muniyappa, Muniraju, Srirama 82/4
142	83	Private	Dry	0.1177	1. Doddagullappa S/o Kannappa 2. Chinnappa, Annaiappa, Yellappa, Ramesh S/o Late. Muniyellappa 83/1
143	83	Private	Dry	0.0594	1. Doddagullappa S/o Kunnappa 83/2
144	83	Private	Dry	0.0499	1. Chinnappa, Annaiappa, Yellappa, Ramesh S/o Late. Muniyellappa 83/3
145	84	Private	Dry	0.2219	1. Government 2. Y. Ramachandra S/o Late Thigalara Yellappa-Converted 3. Y.Muniyellappa S/o Late Thigalara Yellappa-Converted 4. Y.Narayana S/o Late Thigalara Yellappa-Converted 84
146	85	Private	NAK	0.3881	1. T M Ramakrishnappa 2.Government 3. MuniKrishna S/o Srinivasappa 4. Ramakka D/o T M Ramakrishnappa 5. Narayanappa - LAC 6. M Ramappa – LAC 85
147	86	Private	NAK	0.2137	1. Munellappa S/o Chinnaiah 2. Government 86/1
148	86	Private	Dry	0.1751	1. Government 2.Rajappa S/o Late. Muniswamappa 3. Ramachandrappa S/o Late Muniswamappa 4. Srinivas S/o Late. Muniswamappa 5. Ravi S/o Late. Muniswamappa 6. Rajappa, Ramachandrappa, Srinivas, Ravi S/o Late. Muniswamappa 86/2
149	86	Private	Dry	0.0423	1. Lingaraju S/o Muniramaiah 86/3 (Dry) 2. Government
150	87	Private	NAK	0.2473	1. Muniyappa C 2. Chikkamuniyappa 3. Government 87/1
151	87	Private	NAK	0.1476	1. Lingaraju S/o Muniramaiah 2. Government 87/2
152	89	Private	NAK	0.0792	1. Biddareddy S/o Munireddy 2. Government 89
153	90	Private	Dry	0.0664	1. B V Rajanna 2. Sri Basaveshwara Swamy Devru 3. Narayanareddy S/o Venkatareddy 4. Yallareddy 90
	Total			**10.7275**	

K M Manorama, KAS.,
Special Land Acquisition Officer and Competent Authority,
National Highways Authority of India, Hebbal, Bangalore-560024.

Timings
BENGALURU

SATURDAY, APR. 30	
RISE 06:00	SET 18:34
RISE 05:34	SET 18:15
SUNDAY, MAY. 01	
RISE 05:59	SET 18:34
RISE 06:12	SET 19:05
MONDAY, MAY. 02	
RISE 05:59	SET 18:35
RISE 06:53	SET 19:56

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	34	25
Mysuru	36	22
Bengaluru	35	24

Bengaluru Today
35°C The weather will be dry. Day will be warm and humid. Night will be pleasant.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
34°C A warm and uneasy weather to prevail.Night also will be pleasant. Chances of rain and thundershower at some places.

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Companies play genial host to employees returning to offices

They dole out special allowances and open distributed office space

LIFFY THOMAS
BENGALURU

Corporate India is bending over backwards to make the transition from work-from-home to back-in-office smooth. From free stays in a star hotel (for those returning from their hometowns) and helping them find a house on rent to opening small satellite offices so the returning employees can still park themselves in places of their choice, firms are being quite generous with their resources. There are also companies - particularly in the IT sector - that are still firming up return-to-office plans.

Companies are helping employees make the transition from work-from-home to back-in-office smooth. • FILE PHOTO

Shantanu Pandey, who is on the rolls of Hirect, a hiring platform, had to relocate to Bengaluru from Delhi as the company started welcoming employees back to office. The HR team took care of his flight fare, rental-house brokerage charges, and baggage allowances.

"On paper, our office extends a two-week, all-expenses-paid stay in a hotel. It, however, is not rigid about the duration, a factor that helped me take my time to get the ideal house on rent, one that enables me to walk to work," says Mr. Pandey, revealing that his company let him stay at the hotel for three weeks.

Quantiphi, an AI-first digital engineering company with offices in Mumbai and Bengaluru, announced in a communication that employees opting for the hybrid work model are eligible for a hybrid-work allowance and an enhanced relocation bonus. Such associates would also get additional flexibility to work from anywhere across the globe for one month.

TerraPay, a global digital payments infrastructure company, expects a vast number of its employees to start returning to the cubicle from the first week of May. Associates out of Bangalore can stay at the JW Marriott Hotel or the Leela Palace for seven days on reaching the metro. They also receive a one-way flight ticket. The HR team has cherry-picked some real-estate brokers and a list of areas where they could look for a house.

"In some cases, we are making exceptions, letting the employee work from home for some more months," said Vinay Trivedi, Global Head - HR and Administration at TerraPay. A shuttle service to ferry the staff to work has been organised.

The company is also exploring the option of distributed offices, and they are likely to settle on a location in South Bengaluru. "Our main office in North Bengaluru is a 300-seater. However, given the challenge of commuting during the rush hour, we will be opening another space," he added.

Likewise, Meesho has signed a deal with WeWork to provide its employees access to co-working spaces. In recent weeks, NoBroker has seen a surge in corporates seeking tie-ups with them.

As part of the deal, NoBroker engages a relationship manager who works closely with the employee (of any of these companies) to understand their requirements even before they move to the city and shortlist houses for them. Marathahalli, Belandur, Sarjapur, and Outer Ring Road are reportedly among sought-after areas.

Laser treatment now available at Government Dental College

AFSHAN YASMEEN
BENGALURU

Patients visiting the Government Dental College and Research Institute on Victoria Hospital campus can now get access to advanced laser treatment, which is expensive in the private sector.

With the inauguration of a state-of-the-art laser research lab at the college last week, people can now get an array of applications from treatment of simple tooth decay, tooth sensitivity, to more complex applications in regenerative procedures. The lab has been instituted by Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences (RGUHS) at a total cost of ₹80 lakh.

The laser lab at the Government Dental College and Research Institute on BMCRI campus. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Kiran Kumar N., professor and Head of the Department of Conservative Dentistry and Endodontics in the college, said the laser lab equipment has various hard and soft tissue applications. "Procedures with lasers are safe, less painful, and do not require administration of local anaesthesia," he said.

Dental procedures

Various dental problems, including caries prevention, cavity preparation, dentinal hypersensitivity, photobiomodulation, wound healing, pain control, and gum surgeries can be done using lasers. It helps both in preventive care as well as diagnostic purposes, he said.

Citing an example, he said a tongue-tie (wherein the floor of the tongue is fused into the floor of the mouth in young children) surgery can be done in 10 minutes. "Otherwise a patient has to be admitted in the hospital as conventionally this surgery has to be done under general anaesthesia," he said.

"Of the nearly 140 patients seen in our our-patients department everyday, at least 10 will benefit through this laser lab," Dr. Kumar said.

"This facility can be utilised by students of more than 40 dental colleges in Karnataka affiliated to RGUHS. As hard tissue medical grade laser is a young emerging science, the centre will be beneficial to numerous research activities associated with oral biology. With the latest in laser technology, this research lab offers facilities on a par with international standards at a reasonable cost for patients as well as researchers," the doctor said.

"Laser light kills and destroys most microorganisms thereby sterilising the oral cavity. Hence, dental procedures which were avoided during the pandemic (due to the use of airrotor that produces aerosol) can be safely performed without fear of cross-infection," he said, adding that the procedures in the government college costs 90% lesser than the price in the private sector.

State reports 133 new cases, zero deaths

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Karnataka on Friday reported 133 fresh cases taking the day's Test Positivity Rate (TPR) rose to 1.16%. The weekly TPR touched 1.20% and the total number of cases rose to 39,47,496.

Of the new cases, 127 have been reported from Bengaluru Urban alone. With zero deaths, the State's toll remained 40,057. Besides, 42 deaths of patients due to non-COVID-19 reasons have also been recorded.

As many as 147 persons were discharged on Friday taking the total recoveries to 39,05,660. Active cases touched 1,737.

As many as 11,415 tests were conducted in the last 24 hours, including 8,826 RT-PCR tests. With this, the total number of tests rose to 6,58,61,815.

Malls, cinemas, restaurants told to enforce COVID norms strictly

Real-time bed availability portal to be activated immediately

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Amidst fears of another wave of COVID-19 and rising positivity rates in some parts of the Country, the BBMP on Friday held meetings with representatives from Private Hospital And Nursing Homes Association (PHANA), leading private hospitals, Residents' Welfare Associations (RWAs), traders unions, proprietors of malls, hotels, cinema halls and other commercial establishments.

Business areas will be monitored, says BBMP.

Hospitals and nursing homes were instructed to test all ILI/SARI cases in OPDs and in-patients for COVID-19. "Reserving private hospital beds was discussed, and it was reiterated that the earlier order mandating 10% reservation still stands relevant, and hospitals may keep the same in the state of readiness," said a release. Real-time bed availability portal for private hospital will be activated immediately.

Proprietors of theatres, malls, restaurants and other commercial establishments were instructed to ensure that visitors followed COVID-appropriate behaviour, and strictly enforce double dose vaccination for entry. Marshalls shall patrol business areas with high foot fall.

RWAs will cooperate with the civic body to increase surveillance and create awareness on the need for booster doses and paediatric vaccination. They have also been asked to organise camps to ensure 100% coverage across all age groups. "Sewage samples shall be collected for genomic surveillance from large apartment complexes while a Revised Advisory will be released shortly," said the BBMP in a press release.

68,211 students graduate from BU

186 students awarded 321 gold medals, 127 Ph.Ds conferred on researchers

Gold medallists at the annual convocation in Bengaluru on Friday; (below) philanthropist Madhu Pandit Dasa, artist S.G. Vasudev, and social worker M.S. Muthuraj were conferred honorary doctorate. • SUDHAKARA JAIN

TANIA ANNY
BENGALURU

As many as 68,211 students graduated from Bangalore University which held its 56th convocation on Friday.

National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) director S.C. Sharma, who delivered the convocation address, underscored the importance of self-identification and realising one's potential thereby consciously contributing to societal growth.

Pandemic disruption

He spoke about how educational institutions and students are adapting in the era of global pandemic disruption. It has compelled the university system to desperately explore new ways and possibilities to retain students and to avoid the catastrophe of empty campuses, he said. Governor and BU Chancellor Thaawarchand Gehlot congratulated graduating students, gold medallists, and Ph.D students. A total of 186 students were awarded 321 gold medals, while 127 Ph.Ds were conferred to various department researchers.

'Awaiting this day'

Kaladhari Bhavani from Surana College, Bengaluru, who bagged three gold medals in MSc. (psychology), who is partially visually impaired, said: "I was waiting for this day. When I decided to take psychology as my major, many people discouraged me, but my parents, teachers, and friends stood by my decision."

Man offered drop, robbed

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

A man, who was offered a drop in a car at Nayandahalli junction on Thursday past midnight, was robbed on Mysuru Road. The victim, Dinesh, who works as a driver in a private company in Koramangala was standing at Nayandahalli junction when a driver approached him and offered to drop him home. After he got into the car, he realised that there were other men inside.

They allegedly threatened him with a knife and robbed him of ₹3,000, his mobile phones and other valuable items he had on him. However, as they were speeding, the driver hit a road median and couldn't start the car again. The three men in the car got out and fled from the scene. Dinesh has lodged a complaint with Girinagar police.

Power shutdown

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

There will be no power supply on Sunday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. for carrying out cable termination works at 66/11 KV Kumbalgodu substation.

According to a release, the areas that will be affected are Kengeri Town, Byrohalli, KIADB 1st and 2nd stages, Gerupalya, Ramohalli, Gonipura, and surrounding areas.

238 receive certificates at BMCRI convocation

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

As many as 238 graduates received their certificates at Bangalore Medical College and Research Institute (BMCRI) convocation here on Friday. Pratiksha J. Pai topped the medal tally, winning 12 gold medals and awards in all.

Chief guest K. Sudhakar, Minister for Health and Family Welfare, noted how good it is for the country to see an increase in the number of female graduates in the medical field.

He also acknowledged the challenges students had to face because of the pandemic-the batch started their internship by picking up PPE kits and entering COVID-19 wards. In his address, he also made a mention that nine new medical colleges will come up in Karnataka.

M.R Doreswamy Naidu, founder and Chancellor, PES University, spoke about the importance and sanctity of teaching and medical professions.

Changes in syllabus

He also acknowledged the tremendous changes in the syllabus of medical science in the country. In his speech, Mr. Naidu highlighted the plight of rural India and wished the students luck in acquiring further specialised training to serve as good doctors. Padma Vibhushan Dr. V.K. Aatre, Scientist, former Head Defence Research and Development Organisation, gave the convocation address where he spoke about the importance of nanotechnology, virtual reality and AI in the medical field. He gave the graduates insights into the latest research and technologies related to healthcare.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The General Public are hereby informed that my client intend to buy the below mentioned Schedule property from **Smt.BHARATHI. S, Aged about 46 years, W/o. Sri. Subba Rao M.G, D/o. Late. J.Subba Rao, R/at Flat No. 1104, B1 Block, Komarla Brigade Residency, Uttarahalli Main Road, Chikkalsandra, Bengaluru-560061.** If any person/s or Institution ,Authority etc., have got any objections or claiming any right, title and interest of what so ever nature on the Schedule Property, are hereby required to communicate the same along with supporting documents to me at my Office within **|10| TEN days** from this day. Otherwise, the Sale transaction will be completed without any reference or regard to any such purported claim or interest, which shall be deemed to have been waived to all intents and purposes.

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This is to notify for the general information of public that my client **Smt. Hema Ganga D/o Late Thandaveshwara R/o # 1686, Rajathagiri E & F Block, Ramakrishnanagara, Mysore 570 022, intends to purchase the schedule property hereunder** from its lawful owner **Sri B.S.Suryanarayana S/o Late Seetharamaiah, R/o # 4511, 18th Cross, Malleshwaram, Bangalore 560 003,** who is the absolute owner in possession of the schedule property by virtue of Partition Deed dated 30-07-2020 registered as document No.BMH-1-01438-2020-21, Book-I, stored in CD.No.BMHD1200, registered in the office of the Sub-Registrar, Bommanahalli, Bangalore.

Any Person or Group of Persons or institutions having any Right, Title, Interest, Charge, lien and minor claims whatsoever over the schedule property may lodge his/her and their/its claim to the undersigned with documentary proof within period of **15 days** from the date of this publication failing which it will be presumed that there are no objections /Claims, disputes in respect of the schedule property and they will proceed to get the Schedule Property through sale transaction and get the Property Conveyed in her favour or in her nominee/s.

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PSI recruitment scam: Prime accused Divya Hagaragi held

She runs a school in Kalaburagi where exam answer sheets were allegedly rigged

KARNATAKA BUREAU
BENGALURU/BELAGAVI/KALABURAGI

Alleged kingpin in the police sub-inspector (PSI) recruitment scam Divya Hagaragi, who had been on the run for over a fortnight, was arrested in Pune, Maharashtra, on Friday early morning.

Ms. Hagaragi runs the Gyan Jyoti English Medium School in Kalaburagi in Karnataka where exam answer sheets were allegedly rigged. Her husband Rajesh Hagaragi was arrested two weeks ago and is in judicial custody. However, she was on the run.

Divya Hagaragi, prime accused in the PSI recruitment exam scam, being brought to Kalaburagi on Friday. • ARUN KULKARNI

Political affiliation

Since Ms. Hagaragi is associated with the Bharatiya Janata Party in Karnataka, the delay in her arrest had triggered allegations from the political Opposition about the ruling party trying to protect her.

Home Minister Araga Jnanendra had denied the charge and said she would be arrested soon. He announced the arrest on Friday and said it showed the Government's commitment to a fair probe. "We have given the CID a free hand, and we will not intervene in the probe at any cost," he said, adding the Government was considering invoking stringent laws like the Karnataka Control of Organised Crimes Act, 2000.

He hoped Ms. Hagaragi's arrest will lead to uncovering the entire scam and whether malpractices were rampant at other centres as well. Hours later, he announced the Government's decision to annul the results of PSI recruitment exams held in October 2021 and hold a re-exam.

Six others nabbed

Ms. Hagaragi had been on the run from April 10, a day after her name figured in the FIR filed in the scam. Her phone was switched off and she had been elusive. She had applied for anticipatory bail, which the court denied but instead issued arrest warrants against six persons and asked them to surrender before a week.

CID sources said the arrest of Jyoti Patil, who works in Shahbad Municipal Corporation, on April 28, led to the arrest of Ms. Hagaragi. Jyoti Patil was in touch with one of the persons who was accompanying Ms. Hagaragi, sources said.

On questioning, Ms. Hagaragi revealed that she left Kalaburagi on April 10 after a case was registered on April 9 at Chowk police station in connection with alleged malpractices. Her cellphone was switched off on April 10. She and the four others stayed in Solapur in Maharashtra on April 11 and 12 before travelling further north to Pune where they stayed from April 13 to 18. She then went to Gujarat where she stayed from April 19 to 21. She returned to Maharashtra on April 22 and took shelter in a residence on the outskirts of Pune till Karnataka police caught up with her on April 29.

Total arrests

The police have arrested six persons apart from Ms. Hagaragi on Friday, including three staffers at Gyan Jyoti English Medium School – principal Kashinath, teachers Archana and Sunanda, and Shanti Bai, a candidate who wrote the exam and was allegedly involved in malpractices.

Ms. Hagaragi had been given shelter by a Maharashtra-based businessman Suresh Kategaon and his associate Kalidas, who have also been arrested. All the seven accused have been remanded in CID custody for 11 days, sources said.

In all, 23 persons, including Ms. Hagaragi, her husband Rajesh and Congress leader Rudragowda Patil, have been arrested in connection with the PSI recruitment exam scam.

Cong. wants HC judge to monitor probe

'It is difficult to expect fair probe through the Criminal Investigation Department'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Senior Congress leader and former Home Minister Ramalinga Reddy expressed doubts about the possibility of an impartial probe by the police into the police sub-inspector (PSI) recruitment scam and asked the Government to form a Criminal Investigation Department (CID) team under the supervision of a High Court judge to get to the bottom of the scandal.

"How can an impartial probe be conducted when the police are involved in the examination malpractice?" he asked reporters here on Friday.

> **How can an impartial probe be conducted when the police are involved in the examination malpractice?**
> RAMALINGA REDDY
> Former Home Minister

Besides police, the main accused is BJP activist Divya Hagaragi from Kalaburagi. "It is difficult to expect a fair probe through the Criminal Investigation Department, which works at the behest of the Government".

"PSI recruitment is one of the biggest corruption scams in Karnataka, and we are witnessing new twists and turns every day. The recruitment list had to be cancelled as the scam gained more prominence. It is foolish for the Home Minister to even think that he can divert the attention and save the accused by merely announcing a new exam," Mr. Reddy said.

"We would like to question why Amrit Pal, ADGP and investigation in-charge of recruitment scam, was transferred. If the transfer, indeed, was a routine one, why is the Chief Minister justifying the transfer, saying there is no link between the scam and the transfer?" Mr. Reddy asked.

The Government was trying to cover up the investigation and save the accused. Though the probe began long ago, the CID was unable to release an interim report on massive irregularities in the conduct of PSI examination held in October 2021, said Mr. Reddy, who is also the KPCC working president.

Re-exam opposed

Meanwhile, JD(S) leader and former Chief Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy has said that the Government's decision to hold the exams again is unfair to those who had worked hard for the exam.

Aspirants demand re-exam for assistant prof. post

Police have arrested two in connection with a question paper leak case

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

Aspirants who wrote recruitment exams for assistant professor posts in March 2022 have also demanded that the exams be annulled and re-exams be held like the PSI recruitment exams.

> **It is so ironic that the Kannada question paper had so many mistakes. Providing grace marks will only hamper the interests of the meritorious students. So we demand a re-exam.**
> RAVI M.
> Aspirant for Kannada assistant professor post

The Malleswaram police have arrested geography candidate Soumya, from Mysuru, and Nagaraj, Registrar, Karnatak University, in connection with a question paper leak case. Another candidate has reportedly lodged a complaint with the State Government that across many exam centres, exams were held callously without any safety measures to prevent malpractice, including lack of frisking, CCTV surveillance and certain centres had over 120 candidates.

The Kannada question paper for the exam had over 29 errors, applicants have pointed out.

However, Karnataka Examination Authority (KEA) has said in its reply to Kannada Development Authority (KDA) that there were only four errors and they were small spelling mistakes.

Ravi M., an aspirant for Kannada assistant professor post, said it was strange that KEA acknowledged only four mistakes.

"It is so ironic that the Kannada question paper had so many mistakes. Providing grace marks will only hamper the interests of the meritorious students. So we demand a re-exam," Mr. Ravi said.

HC allows OCI students to take CET-2022 under general category

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka has permitted the Overseas Citizens of India (OCI) category students to register for the Common Entrance Test (CET)-2022 and participate in the counselling on a par with Indian citizens to pursue their bachelor degree in the general category of seats in engineering, architecture, ayurveda, and other professional courses.

A vacation Division Bench comprising Justice R. Devdas and Justice K.S. Hemalekha passed the interim order on April 28 on a batch of petitions filed by Vivek Goutam and several other students belonging to the OCI category.

All eligible OCI students

The Bench also made it clear that benefit of this interim order would not be restricted to only the petitioner-students, but will be made applicable to all eligible OCI students for the academic year 2022-23.

The Bench passed the interim order on noticing that the Supreme Court, acting on a batch of petitions questioning limiting admission only under NRI category of seats to OCI students, in February 2021 passed an interim order and permitted OCI students to appear for counselling in general category of seats.

Counsel for the the Karnataka Examinations Authority (KEA), which conducts exams, has pointed out that the Supreme Court had said that its February 2021 interim order was limited only to the academic year 2021-22.

However, the Bench noted that the benefit of apex court's interim order of 2021 has to be extended to the OCI students for the academic year 2022-23 as the apex court has not yet decided the validity of the Ministry of Home Affairs notification, dated March 4, 2021, through which the Union Government had limited admission of OCI students to professional courses only through NRI quota.

The petitioner-students had moved the High Court as the brochure issued by the KEA inviting application from the students for CET-2022 to seek admission to BE, B.Arch, Yoga and Naturopathy, Veterinary Sciences, Farm Sciences, and B.Pharma courses had made it clear that "no candidate shall be eligible for admission to Government seats unless he is a citizen of India."

From other countries

Though the petitioner-OCI students have studied for a minimum of seven years in Karnataka as per the requirement in law, they are citizens of United States of America and other foreign countries by virtue of their births.

Chief Minister to meet Amit Shah to discuss Cabinet expansion

The Union Home Minister will be in Bengaluru on May 3

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai on Friday said he will meet Union Home Minister Amit Shah on May 3 and discuss issues related to the Cabinet expansion/reshuffle.

Mr. Shah is scheduled to come to Bengaluru on May 3 to participate in the valedictory function of the Khelo India University Games in the city.

"Most probably, I will meet Mr. Shah and discuss with him about the expansion of the Cabinet," Mr. Bommai told reporters here. The 34-member Cabinet has five vacant positions. A few days ago, Honnalli BJP MLA M.P. Renukacharya said that the Cabinet should have been expanded long back and the vacancies should be filled up soon to provide strength to the Government in an election year.

Replying to questions, Mr. Bommai said, "I have taken note of the sentiments expressed by legislators and they have been conveyed to the high command. A decision will be taken at the appropriate time."

The Chief Minister is scheduled to visit New Delhi on Saturday evening for a conference of all Chief Ministers and Chief Justices. He would also attend a dinner hosted by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. There is no possibility of meeting any Union Minister or the BJP national president J.P. Nadda, he said. The Chief Minister would return to Bengaluru on Sunday.

ORS to ease referral of patients to tertiary care facilities

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

To facilitate seamless referral of patients from a Government hospital to tertiary care facilities under Ayushman Bharat Arogya Karnataka scheme, the Health Department has introduced an online referral system (ORS).

Health and Medical Education Minister K. Sudhakar said the online system will not only ensure timely treatment for patients, but will also usher in transparency.

According to a circular issued by the Health Department, referral of patients from primary healthcare centres to higher healthcare facilities for secondary and tertiary treatment is set to switch over to an online platform from June 1. Currently, the process used for referral involves manually filling out a pre-printed form.

The old process was time consuming for doctors and also caused inconvenience to patients. With ORS, the process will avoid malpractices.

"From June 1, doctors and designated nodal officers in Government healthcare facilities will have to start referring patients through https://arogya.karnataka.gov.in.," stated the circular.

Applied Materials acquires land in State

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

California-based Applied Materials has invested ₹350 crore to purchase land in Whitefield where it is planning to expand its engineering infrastructure. The company said the expansion would boost its next phase of growth in India.

"We expect this investment to support future product development and R&D, as well as benefit the development of the local supply chain," said Srinivas Satya, Managing Director, Applied Materials India, at Semicon India 2022 here on Friday.

Applied Materials supplies equipment, services and software for the manufacture of semiconductor (integrated circuit) chips for electronics, flat panel displays for computers, smartphones, televisions, and solar products.

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Tender are invited in E-Procurement mode only for availing the services of (a) Data Entry Operators (b).Office Boys(c).store Helpers & (d) Sweepers (e) personal secretary at the officers in O&M Circle, GESCOM, Ballari through outsource contract agencies.

Cost of the estimate: **Rs.56,68,869/-**

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The details will be available in web site: **www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in** on or after **30.04. 2022 @11** hours For any clarifications and details please contact office of the under sign during office hours Ph: 9448359009 and 9035761821, 08392-274084.

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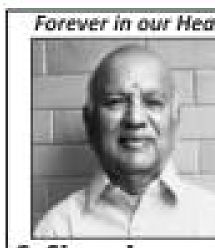

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PUBLIC NOTICE

IN THE COMMERCIAL COURT AT BENGALURU (CCH- 90)
COMM. O.S. NO. 205/2022
Between
ICICI Bank Limited., Having its Corporate & Registered office at Land Mark, Race Course Circle, Vadodara- 390 007 and branch office at Mystree Center, No. 4/10, Hosur Road, Bommanahalli, Bangalore-560068 ...Plaintiff
AND
Mr. Nayamath Pasha & Another ...Defendant
APPLICATION UNDER ORDER 5 RULE 20 OF C.P.C.
Summons to Defendant No.1 & 2
D1. Mr. Nayamath Pasha, S/o. Mr. Munawar Pasha, No.65, Ramachandrappa Layout, Kodigehalli, Bangalore- 560091
D2. Mrs. Gousiya K, D/o. Mr. Khadar Shariff, No. 334, Kodigehalli, Bangalore North, Bangalore- 560091
WHEREAS the Plaintiff has instituted a suit against you for recovery of a sum of **Rs. 4,47,368/- (Rupees Four Lakh Forty Seven Thousand Three Hundred Sixty Eight Only)** together with interest thereon at the rate 24% p.a., with costs etc. You may take notice that you are hereby directed to appear before this court, in person, or through pleader on **13/6/22** at 11.00 a.m., to answer as to why relief prayer for in the suit should not be granted. If you fail to appear on the above said date, the suit will be proceeded with and decided ex-parte.
Given under my hand and the seal of the Hon'ble Court on this **26/04/2022**
BY ORDER OF COURT
CITY CIVIL COURT, BENGALURU
ADVOCATE FOR PLAINTIFF
S. A Associates, No.10, 7th Cross, Victoria Layout, Bangalore - 560 047

DEPARTMENT OF TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING
M.S. Building, 4th Gate, P.B. No. 5257, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Veedhi, Bangalore-560001. • Tel No.: 080-22258988, 22353976,
Fax No.: 080-22389519 • E-mail: dtcp@karnataka.gov.in • Website: www.dtcp.gov.in
No. DTCP/01/Tender-MTS/2022 Date: 26.04.2022

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Sealed tender are invited from reputed firms for supply of Multi Tasking Staff (Data entry-06 Nos., Group D-04 Nos., Sweeper-01 No. and Security Guard-01 No.) for the office of Director, Department of Town and Country Planning, Gate No. 4, Multistoreyed Building, Ambedkar Veedhi, Bangalore-560001 through e-procurement portal. Tender Document of e-Procurement platform will be published on **30.04.2022 at 11.00 A.M.** The last date for submission of bid is **16.05.2022 upto 17.00 Hours.** Date and time of opening of technical bid is **20.05.2022 at 11.00 Hours** and Date of opening of financial bid is **25.05.2022 at 11.00 Hours.** Prescribed tender form along with NIT, term & conditions etc., can be obtained /downloaded from and submitted through e-procurement portal **(https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in).**

Sd/- Director
Department of Town and Country Planning, Bangalore
DIPR/CP/Advt/344/2022-23

(Public Works Department)
Executive Engineer,
Chikkaballapura Division, Chikkaballapura.

Invitation for Short-Term Tender 2nd Call (I.F.T.)
No.: 54-2/2022-23 Date: 25.04.2022
(For Bridge Works – As per Standard Bidding Document K.W. – 4 in two cover system)

On behalf of the Governor of Karnataka, as per Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 2000, the Undersigned invites Tenders in two cover system through e-procurement portal from eligible Contractors registered in PWD for works. Those interested in participating in the tender can submit the tenders from **27.04.2022 to 07.05.2022 up to 4.00 pm.** (1) Last date for objections-doubts and clarifications: **28.04.2022 (at 3.00 pm during office hours).** (2) Last date for submission of filled tenders: **07.05.2022 (up to 4.00 pm).** (3) Date of opening Technical Bid: **09.05.2022 at 11.00 am.** (4) Date of opening Financial Bid after approval of Technical Bid: **13.05.2022 at 11.00 am.** For more information visit website **www.kpwd.gov.in** or contact this office during office hours.

Sd/- Thimmarayappa B.
Executive Engineer, P.W.D. Chikkaballapura Division, Chikkaballapura

HAVE SYMPTOMS OF COVID-19? CALL APTHAMITRA ON 14410
Wear Mask | 6 Feet Follow Physical Distancing | Maintain Hand Hygiene

'Mother Nature' a 'living being' with legal entity: Madras HC

It will have rights, duties and liabilities like a living person, says Madurai Bench

STAFF REPORTER
MADURAI

Holding that it is the right time to confer juristic status to 'Mother Nature', Justice S. Srimathy of the Madurai Bench of Madras High Court invoked the 'parens patriae jurisdiction', and declared 'Mother Nature' as a 'living being' having the status of a legal entity.

> The court is hereby declaring Mother Nature a Living Being having the status of a legal person with all corresponding rights, duties and liabilities of a living person, in order to preserve and conserve it
> JUSTICE S. SRIMATHY
> Madurai Bench of Madras High Court

Justice S. Srimathy observed that the court is hereby declaring 'Mother Nature' a 'living being' having the status of a legal person with all corresponding rights, duties and liabilities of a living person, in order to preserve and conserve it. The court observed that 'Mother Nature' was accorded the rights akin to fundamental rights, legal rights, constitutional rights for its survival, safety, sustenance and resurgence in order to maintain its status and also to promote its health and well-being.

The State and Central governments are directed to protect 'Mother Nature' and take appropriate steps in this regard in all possible ways. The court was hearing petitions filed by A. Periyakaruppan of Theni, who served in the Revenue Department. He had challenged an order passed by the Revenue Department, due to which the petitioner was not allowed to retire from service but put under suspension. The petitioner was then placed under compulsory retirement for issuing a *patta* (deed) for land that was classified as 'Forest Land' in Megamalai. He said that he was only carrying out the orders of his superiors.

The judge said, indiscriminate destruction or change is leading to several complications in the ecosystem and is ultimately endangering the very existence of flora and fauna, forests, water bodies, mountains, glaciers, air and of course humans. Strangely, the destruction is carried out by a few humans. Any such act ought to be checked at all levels. The natural environment is part of basic human rights, of 'right to life' itself, she added.

The judge modified the punishment of compulsory retirement to stoppage of increment for six months without cumulative effect. The consequential monetary benefits shall be conferred on the petitioner. This punishment is imposed for the act done against the 'Mother Nature,' the judge observed.

7 held in A.P. for leaking Class X Telugu paper

Two teachers among the arrested

STAFF REPORTER
CHITTOOR

In a swift move, the Chittoor police on Friday arrested seven accused in the episode of "malpractice" of the Telugu paper of the ongoing Andhra Pradesh Class X examinations, which was reported on April 27.

Of the seven, five are working as principals and vice-principals of some of the popular corporate schools in and around Tirupati, and two are government school teachers of GD Nellore mandal of the neighbouring Chittoor district.

Addressing a press conference here, Deputy Inspector-General (DIG-Anantapur) M. Ravi Prakash and Superintendent of Police (Chittoor) Y. Rishant Reddy said the seven accused had allegedly formed a group to circulate the Telugu paper through social media so that the students of their schools writing examinations would be provided with answer slips at their respective centres.

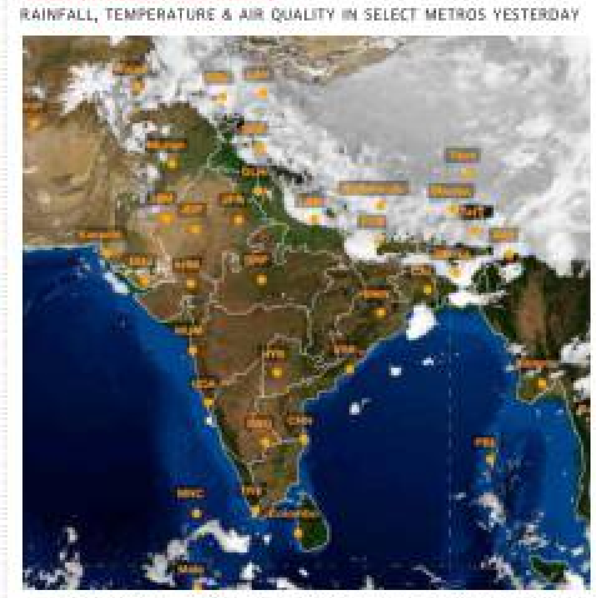
For their clandestine service, both the government school teachers had reportedly been paid some cash in instalments. While in the act of doing so on April 27, the first day of the Class X examination schedule, Pawan Kumar Reddy, one of the teachers, took a snap of the Telugu paper on the mobile from the ZP High School centre at Nellepalle village of GD Nellore mandal.

He sent it on the said WhatsApp group, which, however, sneaked into other social media groups, ultimately attracting the attention of the officials and police.

After a thorough investigation, the accused were arrested in 48 hours.

WEATHER WATCH

RAINFALL, TEMPERATURE & AIR QUALITY IN SELECT METROS YESTERDAY



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Saturday: Heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Assam, Meghalaya, Kerala and Mahe. Thunderstorm with lightning/gusty winds likely at isolated places over Ladakh, Arunachal Pradesh, Bihar, Telangana, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Andaman & Nicobar Islands. Duststorm likely at isolated places over Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan, Delhi and Uttar Pradesh

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	–	37.2	27.7	Kozhikode	–	36.5	29.4
Ahmedabad	–	44.2	28.0	Kurnool	7	42.4	26.7
Aizawl	–	34.4	19.9	Lucknow	–	45.1	26.2
Allahabad	–	46.8	24.6	Madurai	–	38.5	27.0
Bengaluru	–	36.7	23.3	Mangaluru	–	34.7	26.0
Bhopal	–	43.0	27.2	Mumbai	–	34.7	28.8
Bhubaneswar	–	40.2	27.2	Mysuru	–	35.0	22.0
Chandigarh	–	42.5	25.7	New Delhi	–	43.5	25.8
Chennai	–	37.4	27.8	Patna	–	38.2	26.0
Coimbatore	–	36.8	26.0	Port Blair	30	33.5	26.2
Dehradun	–	38.5	21.8	Puducherry	–	35.6	27.5
Gangtok	15.2	21.8	15.1	Pune	–	41.5	25.1
Goa	5	34.0	22.4	Raipur	–	43.4	28.2
Guwahati	–	34.8	23.0	Ranchi	–	41.0	25.6
Hubballi	–	37.0	23.0	Shillong	–	26.5	16.0
Hyderabad	1	41.2	24.3	Shimla	–	32.2	22.1
Imphal	–	33.1	19.7	Srinagar	–	23.0	12.5
Jaipur	–	42.8	31.1	Thiruvananthapuram	7	33.7	25.1
Kochi	4	33.2	26.6	Tiruchi	–	40.7	27.5
Kohima	4	29.0	14.6	Vijayawada	–	40.6	26.7
Kolkata	–	37.4	28.4	Visakhapatnam	–	36.2	27.6

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing — Yesterday

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	11	12	17	200	134	Moderate
Bengaluru	–	16	82	87	104	Moderate
Chennai	17	11	38	76	74	Good
Delhi	21	172	77	328	386	Poor
Hyderabad	52	45	20	86	112	Moderate
Kolkata	16	20	27	90	109	Moderate
Lucknow	16	109	56	364	262	Poor
Mumbai	19	32	28	96	305	Poor
Pune	22	48	117	134	83	Moderate
Visakhapatnam	18	40	30	46	105	Moderate

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Muzaffarnagar, Uttar Pradesh recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 389 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Gummidipoondi, Tamil Nadu recorded a healthy AQI score of 27

Air Quality Code: ■ Poor ■ Moderate ■ Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

India will lead the next technology revolution, says PM

Modi inaugurates Semicon India 2022 conference

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Inaugurating the three-day Semicon India 2022 conference being held in Bengaluru on Friday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said India is headed for a robust economy. "India's own consumption of semiconductors is expected to cross $80 billion by 2026 and is expected to reach $110 billion by 2030," he said.

"In earlier times, industries were ready to do their work, but the government was like a 'Not Gate'. When any input flows into the 'Not Gate', it gets negated," the Prime Minister said through video-conferencing. "We understand that the government must be like the 'And Gate'. While the industry works hard, the government must work even harder."

The Prime Minister said India is headed for a robust economy. "India's own consumption of semiconductors is expected to cross $80 billion by 2026 and is expected to reach $110 billion by 2030," he added. "We are paving the way for India to lead the next technology revolution. We are on our way to connect 600,000 villages with broadband. We are investing in developing capabilities in 5G, Internet of Things and clean energy technologies," he said.

Ashwini Vaishnaw, Union Minister of Electronics and Information Technology, going through exhibits at Semicon India 2022 in Bengaluru on Friday. • K. MURALI KUMAR

To facilitate ease of doing business in India, his government has abolished over 25,000 compliance norms, mostly obsolete ones, and also gave a push towards auto-renewal of licences. He urged captains of Indian industry to establish India as one of the key partners in global semiconductor supply chains and work towards hi-tech, high quality and high reliability.

India has all the reasons to become an attractive investment destination globally for semiconductor technologies, Mr. Modi insisted. "We are building the digital infrastructure to connect over 1.3 billion Indians, and UPI is the world's most efficient payment infrastructure today," he said.

India is investing heavily in skilling and training young Indians for the needs of the 21st century. "We have an exceptional semiconductor design talent pool, accounting for up to 20% of the world's semiconductor design engineers," Mr. Modi added. He further said India has the appetite for tech and risk-taking, and his government is trying to put the odds in favour of industry as far as possible through a supportive policy environment.

Government of Karnataka
Office of the Executive Engineer, Public Works Department Division, Haveri
This office letter No.033/PB/Tnd/SCP/2022-23/426/
Dated : 28-04-2022.

E-Tender Notification

On 28-04-2022 through E-Procurement tender notification has been issued for the following Work Indent No. 150315/Call-2 Last date for submission of tender receipt is assigned on Dated: **09-05-2022** (upto 4:00 PM). For further additional information, any changes & queries visit https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in.

Sd/- (Satish.H.Jahagirdar)
Executive Engineer,
PWD Division, Haveri
DIPR/Haveri/MCA/40/2022-23

SOUTHERN RAILWAY
WORKS BRANCH — MADURAI DIVISION
TENDER NOTICE No. MDU-W-07-2022 Dated: 26.04.2022

e-tenders are invited for the following works by the Divisional Railway Manager / works / Southern Railway / Madurai. Tender closing date for **Item No. 1 to 10 on 18.05.2022 at 14.00 hrs.**

Sl No.	Name of Work
1	Supply of potable water in tank mounted lorry to Madurai Station & colony, Kudalnagar and Madurai East Stations for a period of one year. **App. Value ₹ In lakhs: 68.24; EMD: ₹ 136500; Period of Completion: 12 months;**
2	Dindigul - Pollachi Section: - Proposed destressing of LWR track between km: -2.400 to 120.000 in between stations Dindigul - Pollachi in Senior Section Engineer / Permanent Way / Dindigul & Palani section. **App. Value ₹ In lakhs: 103.53; EMD: ₹ 201800; Period of Completion: 9 months;**
3	Dindigul - Madurai (Up line) section:- Lowering of track at major bridge no. AK1, AK20, 1376 A, 1377, 1383, 1383A, 1384 and its approaches using BCM along with BRM machine at isolated locations on Up line for the length of 6.60 km in between stations Vadippatti - Ambaturai in Senior Section Engineer / Permanent Way / BG / MDU section. **App. Value ₹ In lakhs: 20.05; EMD: ₹ 40100; Period of Completion: 6 months;**
4	Madurai - Bodinayakkanur section: - Proposed Standardization of Formation at isolated locations between Km:-2.200 to 41.000 in between stations Madurai - Andipatti in Senior Section Engineer / Permanent Way / Andipatti section. **App. Value ₹ In lakhs: 41.85; EMD: ₹ 83700; Period of Completion: 6 months;**
5	Assistant Divisional Engineer / South & Sengottai Sub Division - Hiring of 3 Number of open body LCV truck or Similar vehicle for the maintenance of track and bridges each one number for Senior Section Engineer / Permanent Way / Virudunagar, Sivakasi & Sengottai section in Sr.DEN / South / Madurai Jurisdiction for a period of two years. **App. Value ₹ In lakhs: 32.40; EMD: ₹ 64800; Period of Completion: 24 months;**
6	Manamadurai - Rameswaram Section : - Proposed Through Weld Renewal using Mobile Flash Butt welding under line block between Km:- 578.700 to 591.000 for a total length of 12.300 Kms in between stations Paramakkudi and Sattirakkudi in Mandapam Permanent Way sections, (RDSO approved agencies only have to offer their rates). **App. Value ₹ In lakhs: 332.28; EMD: ₹ 316100; Period of Completion: 9 months;**
7	Madurai Division:- Provision of inspection arrangements in ROB No. 1489A, 1504A, 1523A, T-23B, 1707A, 1932 & 1710A and height gauge in RUB No. 1476. **App. Value ₹ In lakhs: 44.09; EMD: ₹ 88200; Period of Completion: 6 months;**
8	Tiruchchirappalli - Rameswaram Section: Through Fittings Renewal in PSC sleepers between Km: 417.000 to 442.000, 483.000 to 489.500 for a length of 31.500 kms in between stations Tiruchchirappalli - Karaikkudi in Pudukkottai Permanent Way section & between Km:- 623.700 to 653.600 for a length of 29.900 kms. in between stations Ramanathapuram - Pamban Block in Mandapam Permanent Way section. **App. Value ₹ In lakhs: 86.59; EMD: ₹ 173200; Period of Completion: 9 months;**
9	Manamadurai - Rameswaram Section:- Proposed Through Weld Renewal using Mobile Flash Butt welding under line block between Km:- 556.700 to 578.700 for a total length of 22.000 Kms in between stations Manamadurai and Paramakkudi in Sivaganga Permanent Way sections. (RDSO approved agencies only have to offer their rates. **App. Value ₹ In lakhs: 598.24; EMD : ₹ 449100; Period of Completion: 12 months;**
10	Assistant Divisional Engineer / Tirunelveli Sub Division - Hiring of 3 Number of open body LCV truck or Similar vehicle for the maintenance of track and bridges each one number for Senior Section Engineer / Permanent Way / Tuticorin, Tirunelveli & Srivaikuntam section in Sr.DEN / South / Madurai Jurisdiction for a period of two years. **App. Value ₹ In lakhs 32.40; EMD: ₹ 64800; Period of Completion : 24 months;**

(Items 10 only)

Further details are available in detail on website **https://www.ireps.gov.in.** The tenderer(s) / Contractor(s) to apply for e-tender for works in Madurai Division, need to get enrolled in the e-tender portal **www.ireps.gov.in** and only online tenders will be accepted. It is the responsibility of the tenderer to check any Corrigendum issued for any correction or modifications uploaded subsequently in the website, the same shall be taken into account while submitting Tender.

Divisional Railway Manager (Works) Madurai

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ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್, ನಂ.4, ಹೇಮಾವತಿ ಎಡದಂಡೆ ನಾಲಾ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಕಾನೀನಿ (ನಿ), ತುರುವೇಕೆರೆ. ತುಮಕೂರು ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ, ಪಿನ್–572227

ಸಂ:01/2022–23 ದಿನಾಂಕ:16.04.2022

ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ತಿದ್ದುಪಡಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಮಾನ್ಯ ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥಾಪಕ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು, ಕಾವೇರಿ ನೀರಾವರಿ ನಿಗಮ ನಿಯಮಿತ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು, ರವರ ಪರವಾಗಿ ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್, ನಂ.04 ಹೇಮಾವತಿ ಎಡದಂಡೆ ನಾಲಾ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಕಾನೀನಿನಿ, ತುರುವೇಕೆರೆ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯ ಏಜೆಂಸಿಯವರು ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ್ನು ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಎಲ್ಲಾ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳು ಮೂಲ ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ – 01/ 2022–23 ದಿನಾಂಕ : 16.04.2022 ರಂತೆ ಇದ್ದು ಕೇವಲ ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡ ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ತಿದ್ದುಪಡಿಯಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ.

1." INDENT 37626 "ಬದಲಾಗಿ" INDENT 37630 " ಎಂದು ಓದಿಕೊಳ್ಳುವುದು. ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ ವಿವರ, ಷರತ್ತುಗಳು, ಕಾಲಾವಧಿ ಹಾಗೂ ಇನ್ನಿತರ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಸಿಸ್ಟಮ್ http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in ಮೂಲಕ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು.

ಸಹಿ/– ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು, ನಂ.4, ಹೇಮಾವತಿ ಎಡದಂಡೆ ನಾಲಾ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಕಾನೀನಿ(ನಿ), ತುರುವೇಕೆರೆ.

DIPR/TUM/63/MCA/2022-23

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the general public that Our Client has negotiated to purchase the **Schedule Property** from its present owners **(1) Mrs. Marilyn Elizabeth Sequeira (2) Mr. Neil Gerard Coelho and (3) Mr. Roland Coelho**

Any person/s having or claiming any manner of right, title, lien or interest in respect of the Schedule Property may intimate the same in writing to the undersigned along with documentary evidence in support of their claim within **7 days** from the date of this publication, failing which no further claim will be entertained.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL of the property bearing **No.17/7, (PID No 91-76-17/7, previously a portion of No.17/1, situated at Spencer Road, Bangalore**, measuring 2400 Sq Feet along with the residential house standing thereon and bounded on the:

East by :Property bearing No 17/8
West by :Property bearing No 17/5
North by :Property bearing No 17/1
South by :Spencer Road

Sd/-
(S.A.H. RAZVI & ARIF PASHA)
Advocates 2nd Floor, M.M. Complex,
No. 60, Chick Bazaar Road, Tasker Town, Bangalore-560 051
Ph: **9845049766 / 9243132714**
Place: Bangalore Dated: 30-04-2022

Zilla Panchayath Mid-Day-Meal Scheme
Tell Ph. 08172-231755, Mob. 9482370363 E-mail: eomdmhassan91@gmail.com
Est1.MDMFT-Tender:04/2022-23 **DATE: 21.04.2022**

SHORT TERM TENDER PUBLISHMENT

A Short term tender has been called from the registered Transporters for the year 2022-23 to transport food grains from 8 Taluks KFCSC Godawns of Hassan district to respective School cooking centers working under the programme MIDDAY MEAL SCHEME. Start of issuance of tender applications: 28/04/2022, 11.00 AM Last date and time to Receive the application for Tender 27/05/2022, 11.00AM Date and time of pre bid Meeting 18/05/2022, 11.00 AM Last date and time to submit filled applications 27/05/2022, 4.30 PM Date and time of opening the Technical bid 30/05/2022, 11.00 AM Date and time of opening the Financial bid 06/06/2022, 11 AM E.M.D. Amount 2.5% OF TENDER AMOUNT Place of Opening the applications of Tender CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, ZILLA PANCHAYAT HASSAN Address and Contact number for applications and more information THE EDUCATION OFFICER,MID DAY MEALS SCHEME, ZILLA PANCHAYAT, HASSAN 08172 231755 Mobile no: 9482370363

sd/- CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, ZILLA PANCHAYAT ,HASSAN
ವಾಪಸಂಇ/ಹಾಸನ/ಜಾಹೀರಾತು/52/2022–23

BANGALORE METROPOLITAN TRANSPORT CORPORATION
Central Offices: Shantinagar, Bengaluru-560 027.
No.: BMTC/CO/COSP/TENDER/02/2022-23 Date: 29.04.2022

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Tender is invited through e-Procurement portal for the following items. **(1) Regular Tender: Tender No. & Date:** BMTC/2022/005, Date: 29.04.2022. **Description:** Printing and Supply of Public Passes for BMTC. Tender Value: **Approximate Rs. 150.00 lakhs.** Last date for bid submission in e-Procurement portal: **18.05.2022 at 14.30 hrs.** *For more details visit **www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/- CONTROLLER OF STORES & PURCHASES (Tender Inviting Authority)

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
ZILLA PANCHAYATH, CHAMARAJANAGARA OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, PANCHAYATH RAJ ENGINEERING DIVISION, CHAMARAJANAGAR - 571313
E-Mail : eepredcrnagar@rediffmail.com Tel. No: 08226-223019

No.EE/PRED/CHN/JE-1/TENDER NOTIFICATION No. 01/2022-23 (Call-2) Dated : 24-03-2022

Item rate tenders are invited through e-procurement portal On behalf of Governor of Karnataka from eligible Registered Contractors in standard bid document KW-4 form the total number of tenders 04, Maximum estimated cost is Rs. 1100.00 lakhs under Accounts. 5054 Special Grant.

Tender upload date	: 28-04-2022
Pre Bid Meeting	: 02-05-2022
Last date for submission of tender	: 07-05-2022 upto 16.00 hours
Date and Time of opening of technical Bid	: 09-05-2022 at after 16.00 hours

Financial bid will open after approval of technical bid

More information can be had from the website **www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in** & any other details required can be obtained from office of the under signed during office hours.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, PRED Division, Chamarajanagar
DIPR:CHANAGAR:59:2022-23

KRISHNA BHAGYA JALA NIGAM LIMITED
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
Office of the Executive Engineer, KBJNL, Dam Division, Almatti-586201. Tq:B.Bagewadi Dt: Vijayapur.
Phone:08426-281027 E-mail:dam_division@rediffmail.com
No: KBJNL/DDA/DB/TND/2022-23/203-204 Dated:27.04.2022

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through E-Procurement Portal Only)

On behalf of the Managing Director, KBJNL, Bangalore the undersigned invites tender on percentage basis from the eligible contractors for the work of **(1) Indent No. 22025 for Rs. 69.87 Lakhs (2) Indent No. 22026 for Rs. 23.52 Lakhs (3) Indent No. 22019 for Rs. 11.64 Lakhs (4) Indent No. 22027 for Rs. 34.94 Lakhs (5) Indent No. 22020 for Rs. 11.64 Lakhs (6) Indent No. 22021 for Rs. 5.82 Lakhs. The contractor can have access and submit e-tender from 28.04.2022 to 09.05.2022 up to 5.00 PM. Cover-I (Technical Bid) will be opened on 11.05.2022 at 11.00AM Cover-II (Financial Bid) will be opened on 16.05.2022 at 11.00AM** at the Office of the Executive Engineer, KBJNL, Dam Division, Almatti. For clarifications office of the undersigned may be contacted during office hours (Phone No. 08426-281027). Further information about electronic tendering can be had from **http://eproc.karnatak.gov.in/ eportal /index.seam.**

Sd/- Executive Engineer, KBJNL, Dam Division, Almatti
ವಾಪಸಂಇ/ವಿಜಯಪುರ/71/ಜಾಹೀ/2022–23

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Health Officer, RRN, Ideal Homes Township, Rajarajeshwarinagara, Bengaluru - 560 098.
No: HO(RRN)/PR-01-06/2022-23 Date: 29.04.2022

CORRIGENDUM

The News paper notification dated on **28.04.2022** with Ref No.HO(RRN)/PR-01-06/2022-23 is revised based on the orders of Chief Health Officer (Public Health) with Ref No: CHO(PH)/PR/62/2022-23. Bidders to refer e-procurement portal http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in necessary clarification.

Sd/- Health Officer
Rajarajeshwarinagara Zone

STAY PROTECTED FROM COVID-19, NO CARELESSNESS UNTIL THERE IS A CURE.
Wear Mask | 6 Feet Follow Physical Distancing | Maintain Hand Hygiene

KARNATAKA POWER CORPORATION LIMITED
(KALINADI HYDRO ELECTRIC PROJECT)
CIN: U85110KA1970SGC001919

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through GoK e-Procurement Portal only)

Tenders in two cover system are invited from eligible bidders for the following: Supply of **1) NPH/MRP65/G/21-22/2313/CALL-3** Wave trap 220KV class and Coupling device of any reputed make as per enclosed technical specifications for Kali & GDPH projects of KPCL. **2) KPCL/2021-22/IND_100_4/CALL-2** Radio Remote with receiver, REMOTE BATTERY, REMOTE BATTERY CHARGER for 175 T EOT Crane. **3) KPCL/2021-22/IND_100_3/CALL-2** Spares for Electric Overhead Traveller (EOT) crane. **4) KPCL/2021-22/IND_MC_36/CALL-3** Various types of ropes and chains to KPCL Ambikanagar. Last date & time for receipt of tenders: For Sl. No. 1: **05.05.2022, 17.00 Hrs.** For Sl. No. 2, 3 & 4: **06.05.2022, 17.00 Hrs.** Tender documents may be downloaded from GoK e-proc. website: **URL:https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** Further details can be obtained from the office of the **Executive Engineer (MSP)A**, KPCL, Ambikanagar-581 363. Ph: 08284-258681, E-mail: eemspa@karnatakapower.com

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN: U40109KA1999SGC025521)
No.:SEE/Tr/W&M/C/KLB/DCA/EE(O)/AEE-1/2022-23/377 Date: 29.04.2022

TENDER NOTIFICATION (e-Procurement mode only)

Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation Limited invites bids for the following works.

1) Bid Enquiry No: KPTCL/SEE/Tr(W&M)C/KLB/2022-23/PTR repair at Karnataka/Call-3 for Dismantling Transportation (to and fro), Repair, Testing, Erection and commissioning of sick Power Transformer of rating 10 MVA, 110/33-11KV, EMCO make, Sl.No.LT1153/12703 at 110KV S/s Kamthana on total turn key basis.

2)Bid Enquiry No: KPTCL/SEE/KLB/Tr(W&M)/EE(O)/AEE-1/2022-23/Hattigudur-Kembhavi-KBJNL/Call-5 for Providing 01 No of intermediate B+0 Tower in 110KV Hattigudur-Kembhavi-KBJNL D/C Ckt line between Loc No:62-63 in TLI Section Shahapur of TLM Sub Division Shahabad.

The bids will be received through electronic tendering mode only. The detailed notifications regarding subject enquiry in the E-procurement process can be obtained by logging on to KPTCL website **https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** on hyperlink **"e-Procurement-KPTCL"** or directly logging on to website **"https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in/"** on or after **30.04.2022. on/after 12.30 PM.** Any other details can be had from the office of the undersigned during office hours.

Sd/- Superintending Engineer (Elecl.), Transmission (W&M) Circle, KPTCL, Prasarana Bhavana, Kalaburgi

Fuelling friction

Shifting the onus of providing relief from high fuel prices onto States can strain federalism

At a meeting with Chief Ministers about the resurgence of COVID-19 on Wednesday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi charged Opposition-ruled States with committing an injustice to the people by not cutting duties on petroleum products as the Centre had done in November 2021. Those cuts of ₹5 and ₹10 per litre of petrol and diesel, respectively, came as fuel prices crossed well past ₹100 a litre – those levels have been breached again after a poll-driven lull. The PM noted that the Centre's plea at the time, for States to back these cuts by paring their VAT levies on petroleum products, was not heeded by States not governed by the BJP. But even NDA-administered States are now facing extremely high inflation – retail inflation in April was 8.19% for Uttar Pradesh and Assam, and 7.4% to 7.6% in Bihar, Jammu & Kashmir and Haryana – far higher than the national retail inflation rate of 6.95% for the month. The PM's remarks, buttressed by the slogan of cooperative federalism, attracted an instant backlash from West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Kerala, Telangana, Jharkhand and Andhra Pradesh. While all States are fretful about resource constraints and pending dues from the Centre, some had reduced VAT on fuel products and others have not hiked rates for years. Despite its recent assertions that no taxes were levied to counter the pandemic, the Centre had hiked fuel taxes even amid the 2020 COVID-19 lockdown with a preference for cess levies that do not have to be shared with States.

While the political brouhaha over the PM's pitch unfolds, the signal for the common man is clear – abandon any hope of immediate relief. This is akin to striking a cruel blow against the middle and lower-income classes, already besieged by successive setbacks on the job, health and income fronts. Household budgets are severely squeezed because of price rise. Even industry has mooted fuel tax cuts to sustain a fragile consumption recovery. With record tax collections last year and revenue buoyancy expected to hold up this year, the Centre has fiscal room to slash its fuel taxes, and there will be an automatic cascading effect on State taxes levied on an *ad valorem* basis. Expecting States, which are worried about their limited revenue sources once the assured GST compensation stops flowing from this July, to take the lead in reining in petroleum taxes, is unwieldy, short-sighted and unnecessarily confrontational. Even more so as the States are also expected to ramp up capex spending to revive the economy. As the PM said, the Centre and States need to coordinate better to spur the economy amid global tumult. Singling out a few States to deflect attention from the Centre's excessive reliance on fuel taxes is not the right approach to attain such harmony. Most of all, as high inflation will debilitate the recovery's momentum, shirking corrective action to bolster its revenue kitty would be a case of being penny wise and pound foolish.

Safety first

The fire tragedy in T.N. could have been averted by adherence to safety norms

The tragedy on Wednesday at Kalimedu in Thanjavur district of Tamil Nadu, which claimed the lives of 11 persons and left 17 injured after a small chariot touched a live wire of the high tension category and caught fire, could have been averted by just following laid down procedures. The idol-laden chariot was being taken out in a procession as part of an annual festival to perpetuate the memory of Saivaite saint Thirunavukkarasar. Almost 10 days earlier, two persons had died in a stampede at the annual Chithirai festival of the Madurai Meenakshi temple, which attracts lakhs of devotees. Ten years ago, an event that almost mirrored Kalimedu happened in Gudiyatham, Vellore district, killing five persons. What is disturbing is the regularity with which these events occur during religious or temple festivals. The fact that the State has such a dubious record should compel the authorities to adhere to the rule book as the protection of human life is a must.

Even as the findings of a one-member official panel and the police investigation are eagerly awaited, there are a number of questions that the authorities need to probe. These include whether the organisers, who have been holding the festival for over 90 years, had permission from the local officials; why there had to be a procession during the early hours; whether such an event could take place without the knowledge or the approval of the local authorities, and why power supply from the overhead HT line was not switched off, whereas this was not the case with regard to low-tension lines in the area. What is obvious is the lack of coordination among the electricity, highways, local administration and revenue departments, which ought to have been there for an event such as this. The height of the road was raised since the time of the last procession, but evidently the organisers did not account for this. The scope for such events occurring can be reduced drastically, if not eliminated, if the authorities strictly enforced existing guidelines. Though the institution which had organised the festival is said to be outside the purview of the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department, the authorities can still be proactive, at least in sensitising organisers of such events about safety guidelines and insisting that devotees who accompany a temple car or chariot are aware of the risks. The Government should make public the reports submitted by agencies that inquire into such events and issue regular updates in the follow up action. It is incumbent upon devotees to ensure that safety norms are implemented in letter and spirit. It is only through collective efforts that tragedies such as the one in Kalimedu can be averted.

An interpretation of the French elections

Emmanuel Macron should tread carefully as the far right's Le Pen and the left-wing's Mélenchon cannot be written off

EMILE CHABAL

Who won the French presidential election?

At first glance, the answer to this question seems obvious: the winner was the incumbent, Emmanuel Macron, who was re-elected with 58.5% of the vote in the second round of the election on Sunday. But you could be forgiven for thinking that the loser – the far-right candidate, Marine Le Pen – also won. On Sunday night she announced that her defeat was a "spectacular victory".

Even more confusingly, one of the candidates who did not make it to the second round at all – Jean-Luc Mélenchon, who represented a coalition of far-left movements – claimed victory on Sunday as well. When he appeared on television, shortly after the results were announced, he explained that he represented the "Third Estate". This historical reference to the group that initiated the French Revolution in 1789 was a way of saying that, even if he had not won this time, he would win very soon.

So what is going on, and why are so many candidates claiming victory?

Macron's half-victory

Let us start with Mr. Macron. Here, at least, there would seem to be little ambiguity. Mr. Macron came top in the first round of the election and won in the second round by a comfortable margin.

However, this was not a foregone conclusion. He survived the nationwide "yellow vests" protest movement in 2018-19, steered France through an unprecedented pandemic, and navigated a major war in Ukraine in the weeks leading up to the election. He secured broad political support throughout this period and managed to retain some of the youthful dynamism of his early presidency.

Politically, too, he has shown himself to be remarkably astute. His claim that he would transcend France's 250-year-old left-right division seemed like misplaced hubris, but this election has demonstrated the success of his strategy. Having reduced the main centre-left party to a mere rump in 2017, he has now done the same for the main centre-right party, whose candidate in this presidential election received less than 5% of the vote.

Last but not least, Mr. Macron has enhanced France's position in Europe. His calls for greater European integration fell on deaf ears five years ago, but the pandemic led to a unique Europe-wide economic support package, and the war in Ukraine has dramatically highlighted the need for a common European defence strategy.

And yet, despite these undeniable successes, there is a whiff of illegitimacy about Mr. Macron's victory. This can be explained by the large number of people who voted for him without enthusiasm. As in 2017, he faced Ms. Le Pen in the second round, which meant that France's significant left-wing electorate was deprived of a left-wing candidate for whom to vote in a presidential runoff for the third time in 20 years.

As a result, a big chunk of the left voted for Mr. Macron, not because they approved of his policies, but because he seemed a more palatable option than Ms. Le Pen. Given that the French take seriously the battle of ideas in election campaigns, the fact that Mr. Macron has again been elected by default is a source of intense frustration and resentment.

AFP

This has been compounded by Mr. Macron's unpopularity. While he has maintained excellent overall approval ratings for an incumbent, he provokes a strong negative reaction amongst his detractors. They view him as authoritarian, classist, neo-liberal, and detached from the concerns of ordinary people.

All of this means that many people see Mr. Macron's victory as little more than a formality. They argue that he faced a weak opponent and was never really challenged. And they point to the low voter turnout – a shade under 72% – as a sign of how fragile his mandate really is.

Le Pen's half-defeat

Ms. Le Pen's supporters have similarly mixed emotions. There is no way to conceal the fact that their candidate did worse than she had hoped. Several opinion polls had her neck-and-neck with the outgoing President, but she underperformed in the first round, scoring only 23%, and her support tailed off in the second round, where her final score was 41.5%.

This was, of course, significantly more than the 33.9% she managed in the second round in 2017, but she also had the benefit of anti-incumbency. This time, she surfed on a wave of dissatisfaction about the cost of living in France, and she could count on the transfer of votes from another far-right candidate, Éric Zemmour, who was eliminated in the first round.

Despite these advantages, the gap between her and Mr. Macron was still well over 10 percentage points. Her margin of defeat confirmed that she remains an "outsider", a repository for a protest vote, rather than a credible candidate.

Nevertheless, there is cause for optimism among her supporters. Ms. Le Pen is no longer a political undesirable. From an institutional perspective, she has been normalised as Mr. Macron's principal opponent in the presidential elections. The ideas of the far-right in France remain unpopular and she continues to be associated with instability and incompetence, but she has managed to make her political brand more palatable.

In particular, Ms. Le Pen has become the voice of France's working class. She won a majority of the vote share among the working class and lower-middle class voters, especially in rural and semi-rural areas. Her face-off against Mr. Macron, who was unambiguously the candidate of the middle- and upper-classes, came to resemble a form of class struggle for the 21st century.

This suggests that Ms. Le Pen could still do better next time. If she can retain her identity as the candidate of the working class while continuing to burnish her leadership credentials, she can aspire to even greater success – assuming, that is, she survives that long.

What is left of the left?

Mr. Mélenchon was eliminated in the first round of the election, but his score of 21.9% exceeded most polling estimates. In the final days of the campaign, hundreds of thousands of left-wing voters decided to vote tactically for Mr. Mélenchon in the hope of consigning Ms. Le Pen to the first round.

This unprecedented mobilisation of voters, which included exceptionally high turnouts in the depressed urban areas of French cities, came as a surprise. The French left had been hopelessly divided in the run to the presidential election, with six different candidates on offer. No one believed that they could mount a credible challenge in an ideological landscape dominated by the right and far-right.

Mr. Mélenchon's excellent score does conceal some major weaknesses: the combined vote of all the left-wing candidates in the first round of the election was a little over 30%, which is the same as the combined votes for all the far-right candidates. The left has a long way to go before it can win again.

But, given this extremely unfavourable ideological climate, Mr. Mélenchon's performance was a source of hope. It showed that even in the face of disunity, France's powerful left-wing electorate could come together. And it also showed that some of the themes dear to the left – such as inequality – could be claimed by the left, instead of the far-right.

Most of all, Mr. Mélenchon's narrow elimination restored a much-needed clash of ideas to an exhausted and demobilised electorate. If the left can organise itself around a new set of candidates and ideas, it is well-placed to exploit the vacuum that will be open up when Mr. Macron steps down in 2027. Until then, the new President – who can fairly lay claim to a historic victory – will have to tread carefully.

Emile Chabal is a reader in history at the University of Edinburgh. His latest book is 'France', a short introduction to postwar French history

A step that would trigger language phonocide

Imposing Hindi would be catastrophic; instead, India would be better off having a multi-linguistic accommodative policy

FAISAL C.K.

The Union Home Minister, Amit Shah, recently urged the use of Hindi as the lingua franca, rather than English, in inter-State communication. He suggested (reportedly at the Parliamentary Official Language Committee) that when citizens of States who speak other languages communicate with each other, it should be in the "language of India". It is quite natural that a leader of a political stream that raised the slogan, 'Hindi, Hindu, Hindustan' would air such a quixotic idea. It was V.D. Savarkar, the Hindutva icon, who first advocated the idea of Hindi to be declared the national language and articulated the slogan, 'Hindi, Hindu, Hindustan'. R.V. Dhulekar, a member of the Constituent Assembly, bluntly stated in the Assembly, "You may belong - to another nation but I belong to Indian nation, the Hindi Nation, the Hindu Nation, the Hindustani Nation."

India has a harmonious symphony of linguistic pluralism; it is not a disarranged cacophony. Ganesh N. Devy, in 'Indigenous languages', a UNESCO lecture in October 2008, and also in a media article, "Tribal languages in a death trap" in August 2011, has mentioned how Sir George Grierson's Linguistic Survey of India (1903-1923) had identified 179 languages and 544 dialects in India. The 1961 Census reports mentioned a total of 1,652 'mother tongues', out of which 184 'mother tongues' had more than 10,000 speakers, and of which 400 'mother tongues' had not been mentioned in Grierson's survey, while 527 were listed as 'unclassified'. In 1971, the linguistic data offered in the Census was distributed in two categories – the officially listed languages of the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution, and the other languages with a minimum of 10,000 speakers each. All other languages spoken by less than 10,000 speakers were lumped together in a single entry 'Others'. That practice continued to be followed in subsequent enumerations. This practice made many languages invisible, says Prof. Devy.

Exposing a myth

The so-called 'National Grandiosity' of Hindi is a dubious fallacy unsupported by facts. Prof. Devy had exposed the myth of Hindi as a pan-Indian language. In an article in *The Hindu* on June 7, 2019, "Language, the opening move", he wrote: "The 2011 Census data on languages, published last year, was heavily doctored. It presents Hindi as the 'mother tongue' of over 52 crore people by subsuming more than 5 crore claimants of Bhojpuri and more than 9 crore speakers of nearly 61 other languages – claimed as 'other' by their speech communities – from Rajasthan, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Haryana, Bihar, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh. 'The Hindi' is probably spoken by not more than 30% of the population, but it is not the mother tongue for the remaining 70%."

Hindi is not a lingua franca for Indians; nor is it a dominant language. It is only a *primus inter pares* among numerous Indian languages.

GETTY IMAGES

In the neighbourhood

The imposition of one language in neglect of the others in a multilingual state is disastrous. Pakistan and Sri Lanka are textbook examples of how stubbornness over language ruined nations. After Partition and Pakistan was formed, Pakistan became a multi-ethnic and multi-linguistic state. In 1948, the Government of Pakistan ordained the Islamisation of East Pakistan, with Urdu as the sole national language. "There can only be one state language if the component parts of this state are to march forward in unison, and in my opinion, that can only be Urdu," asserted Jinnah. This arrogance of the West Pakistan elite ignited the violent Bengali language movement or Bhasha Andolan in East Pakistan, advocating the recognition of the Bengali language as an official language of the then Dominion of Pakistan in order to allow its use in government transactions, in education, in media, in currency and to maintain its writing in the Bengali script. The Language Movement catalysed Bengali nationalism and the eventual separation of East Pakistan from Pakistan.

The Sinhala Only Act (the Official Language Act) of 1956 was a high point in Sri Lanka's history. It triggered intense enmity and distrust between the Sinhalis and the Tamils. The Act replaced English with Sinhala as the sole official language of the nation with the exclusion of Tamil. Sinhalese was the language of Sinhalese people who formed 70% of the population. Tamil was spoken by Indian and Sri Lankan Tamils (and most Muslims) who together constituted around 29% of the country's population. The Act was discriminatory and alienated the Tamil community from the mainstream. The Act also symbolised the Sinhalese majority's zeal to assert Sri Lanka's identity as a Sinhala nation state; for Tamils, it epitomised minority oppression and a justification for the demand for a separate Tamil nation. This friction sparked the decades-long civil war and ruined the nation.

A place for diversity

In contrast, the nations that accommodated linguistic diversity prospered. Singapore has a multi-ethnic population (Chinese, Malay and Indian). In its formative years, there was immense pressure to declare Chinese as the official language of Singapore. But Lee Kuan Yew, the architect of modern Singapore, quelled the demand and opted for English. English language proficiency made the city state a global business hub. In an article in *The Straits Times* (2004) he had said, "When we became independent in 1965, the Chinese Chamber of Commerce committee came to see me in my office, then at City Hall. They urged me to have Chinese as our national and official language. I looked them in the eye and said, 'You must be mad, and I don't want to hear any more of that from you. If you do, you are entering the political arena. I have to fight you. Because, Singapore will come apart.' Supposing I had been otherwise inclined, which my colleagues would not have allowed, and had said, 'Yes, okay.' What would have happened to Singapore? Where would the Malays be, and the Indians, what future would they have? The English-educated Chinese would also be against us. The country would fall apart. Let us assume that we were all Chinese, no Malays, no Indians. Could we make a living with Chinese as our language of government and our national language? Who is going to trade with us? What do we do? How do we get access to knowledge? There was no choice."

In South Africa, the national anthem of this Rainbow Nation, since 1997, is a five-language lyrical composition, making it the most unique anthem in the world in this regard. The languages are Xhosa, Zulu, Sesotho, Afrikaans and English. South Africa is an emerging leader of the African continent and its accommodative linguistic policy helped them a lot.

India should emulate the multilinguistic accommodative policy of Singapore and South Africa; not the disastrous linguistic chauvinism of Pakistan or Sri Lanka. Imposing Hindi, which is the first language of the residents of only 12 of the 35 States and Union Territories (in the 2011 Language Census of India, and where Andhra Pradesh and Telangana figure together in the 2011 data) as a lingua franca would initiate the phonocide of other Indian languages. And it would prove to be catastrophic.

Faisal C.K. is Under Secretary (Law) to the Government of Kerala

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the full postal address and the full name or the name with initials.

To read more letters online, scan the QR code

Fuel prices

Undoubtedly, VAT imposed on diesel and petrol is one of the reasons behind swelling fuel prices but no border line can be drawn between BJP-ruled States and non-BJP ruled States in this regard. On the other hand, the excise duties levied by the Union government on fuels have increased manifold since 2014. To be precise, while the excise duty imposed on a litre of diesel in 2014 was ₹3.50, currently it is ₹22. Similarly, the excise duty imposed on a litre of petrol in 2014 was ₹2.50; it is now ₹28. Hence, the Prime Minister's advocacy that only VAT enhances fuel prices is misleading and politically motivated.

SATYANARAYAN PADHEE,
Bargarh, Odisha

■ The Kerala Finance Minister has categorically stated that Kerala has not hiked the tax on petrol and diesel for the last six years. So, what is the truth? The Prime Minister's point appears to be that when his government cut duty on diesel and petrol in November 2021, a politically motivated decision taken in the context of Assembly elections in some States, the States ruled by the BJP governments obliged by effecting a corresponding reduction in value added tax (VAT) on petrol and diesel, while the non-BJP government ruled States did not. How could he have expected the non-BJP governments to oblige when it was a political stunt borne out by the strange restoration of increases immediately after the elections? Instead of smokescreens, what people expect from the Government is an immediate reduction in fuel prices so as to lighten the burden of grave inflationary pressures.

MANOHAR ALEMBATH,
Kannur, Kerala

■ The Prime Minister has advised non-BJP ruled States to reduce the VAT on fuel as has supposedly been done by the BJP ruled States. The non-BJP ruled States have naturally taken umbrage at the unsolicited advice and also contested this claim. The top leader should know that he is the Prime Minister for the entire nation. Therefore, he should have advised all States to effect a cut on taxes on the fuel without making a distinction between BJP and non-BJP ruled States. Before asking States to cut taxes on fuel, the Centre should lead the way by being more generous in cutting taxes.

K.R. JAYAPRAKASH RAO,
Mysuru

A balm for J&K

The slew of projects for J&K, if translated into concrete action, could serve as the much-needed balm to soothe the frayed nerves of the long-suffering, woe-begone people of Kashmir. With tourism and trade booming again in the embattled region and cash-rich investors from the United Arab Emirates evincing keen interest to invest there, it may not be long before Kashmir regains its past glory. However, the outreach should be followed up by restoring full statehood and holding free and fair elections. The flip side is the daunting task of having to deal with a section of people for whom peace and normalcy in J&K is anathema to their interests.

NALINI VIJAYARAGHAVAN,
Thiruvananthapuram

A death in Belagavi, and a trail of corruption

A contractor from Belagavi district was found dead after making allegations of corruption against a Minister in the Basavaraj Bommai Cabinet, who has since stepped down. **K.V. Aditya Bharadwaj** and **Rishikesh Bahadur Desai** explore the issues surrounding the death and the larger rot in the system that it exposes

Hindalga in the border district of Belagavi is one of the most picturesque villages in Karnataka. The hamlet, which is within 20 km of the Western Ghats range, is home to around a thousand people as well as an early 20th-century heritage prison where some of the country's most notorious criminals, including death row convicts, are incarcerated.

After a century, the postcard village recently celebrated the local temple fair for which it got a makeover. Its patchy roads were re-laid amidst a slew of development works. But these very projects that the villagers had enthusiastically welcomed appear to have cost one of its residents his life. An alleged suicide of a resident of this little village has blown the lid off the underlying rot in the larger system.

A short stroll from the prison leads to '*Kanasu*' (dream), a newly built house in Samarth Nagar. This is where 40-year-old Santosh Patil, a civil contractor and Hindu Yuva Vahini leader, planned to live. Before moving into the house that embodied his dreams for a prosperous future, he had planned to host a housewarming ceremony on May 3, which marked the Basava Jayanti this year. Unfortunately, that future was cut short. Patil was found dead in a hotel in Udupi on April 12.

(Clockwise) A road built by deceased contractor Santosh Patil in Hindalga village in Karnataka; Congress MLAs and MLCs led by Opposition leader Siddaramaiah protesting at the eastern gate of Vidhana Soudha, demanding the arrest of (now former) Minister K.S. Eshwarappa on April 15; Eshwarappa handing over his resignation letter to Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai on April 15. • RADIGER P.K., MURALI KUMAR K.

A desperate letter to the PM

Six weeks prior to his death, Patil had written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi complaining about the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)-led Karnataka government's delay in releasing ₹4 crore towards 108 civil works for the village. It had been executed without work orders, allegedly on oral assurances from then Rural Development and Panchayat Raj (RDPR) Minister K.S. Eshwarappa, in the run-up to the temple fair. In the letter, he alleged that Mr. Eshwarappa's 'agents' were demanding bribes to clear the bill. He warned the Prime Minister that he would be left with no option but to end his life if the bills were not cleared.

When Patil went public with the letter, Mr. Eshwarappa claimed the contractor had not carried out any works in Hindalga, and filed a defamation case against him. Days before his death, when Patil spoke to *The Hindu*, he recounted how he, along with a delegation of BJP workers from Hindalga Gram Panchayat, met Mr. Eshwarappa and asked him to re-lay roads in the village prior to the Lakshmi Temple fair. "The Minister immediately asked me to start the work and assured me that he would take care of regularising it by issuing work orders and clearing the bills when it was completed," Patil said at the time.

When asked if he was aware of the risk of verbally agreeing to such a large undertaking without due process, the contractor claimed that it was how government works were executed. "After all, I was a member of the ruling party. What could go wrong?" he said.

Nagesh Munnolkar, president of the Hindalga Gram Panchayat, who led the delegation, concurred with Patil's version of what transpired in the meeting. Roads in the village had been re-laid, though he had subcontracted the works. Concerns had been raised about the quality of the roads. Patil told *The Hindu* that he had paid a "commission" of around ₹15 lakh to various middlemen. He alleged that despite this, Mr. Eshwarappa and his agents were demanding more commission without clearing his bills. While his wife, Jayashree Patil, said she was unaware of all the details, she confirmed that her husband often spoke about the Minister and his agents harassing him for kickbacks. She admitted that he sold her jewellery to take out loans from acquaintances.

Through it all, Mr. Eshwarappa and the RDPR Department he headed at the time denied that they had anything to do with this. Both claimed that no work orders were issued. However, last week Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai clarified that henceforth no project will be executed without work orders. "Works were being taken up on oral instructions, particularly in rural local bodies," he said, without specifically citing this case.

Contractors say that at any given time, nearly ₹400 crore–₹500 crore worth of works are ongoing in the State without work orders and on oral instructions of Ministers or MLAs. Santosh Patil's multiple meetings and appeals to central BJP leaders in Delhi failed to resolve the impasse. Apparently hounded by creditors, he took his life on April 12. But he left a WhatsApp message to his friends holding Mr. Eshwarappa "directly responsible" for his death. He called for the Minister to be appropriately punished.

Though Mr. Eshwarappa - a Hindutva hardliner and controversial Minister - tried to brazen it out, he was forced to resign on April 15, reportedly after a nudge from the BJP's central leadership.

Until Patil's death, the ruling BJP had been riding a two-month high on the continuous religious polarisation in the State that began with the hijab controversy and soon spread, with their strategic support or silence, to the economic boycott of Muslims and ban of loudspeakers in mosques and other religious institutions. Patil's suicide came as a jolt, redirecting the public's gaze back to allegations of corruption, shoddy roadwork and other problems that had been drowned out by back-to-back incidents of religious polarisation.

It resurrected an unprecedented submission made by the Karnataka State Contractors' Association in July 2021, to Prime Minister Modi that in Karnataka "40% kickbacks" were being sought for contracts awarded by the State Government. The petition, made public in November later that year, had failed to gain traction in the public discourse.

In the aftermath of Patil's death, the association announced members would stop work for a month in May if their concerns - eradication of corruption in tenders among others - are not resolved by then. They also warned that they will release "proof of corruption" against at least five to six Ministers and 20-25 MLAs from the ruling party.

D. Kempanna, president, Karnataka State Contractors' Association, termed the incumbent BJP government historically the "most corrupt" in the State. Taking commissions on contracts is an old practice, but it was in the range of 5-10%. That changed when the BJP came to power in 2019, with commissions ballooning to nearly 40%, he alleged. "Since 2019, corruption under this regime is both quantitatively and qualitatively on a different scale. The impunity of Ministers, MLAs and bureaucrats is outrageous," he said.

In an unprecedented turn of events, contractors are forced to pay a commission of 5% before the contract is even awarded to them, and 25-30% before starting the work. Another tranche is paid again to clear the bills, taking the kickbacks to around 40%, the association's July 6, 2021 letter to Prime Minister Modi alleged.

"Never were we expected to pay a commission before our bills were cleared. Now we are expected to pay before the tender is awarded, before starting work and bills are cleared," R. Ambikapathy, vice-president of the association said.

To add to their woes, the State government has accumulated "never-before" levels of pending bills, estimates of which vary from ₹25,000 crore to even ₹75,000 crore. "Bills for all works undertaken since 2020 are pending, some even older. This has steeped most contractors in a debt trap. At least 10 have ended lives, apart from Santosh Patil since 2019," Mr. Ambikapathy claimed.

"With nearly 40% kickback, 12-18% Goods and Service Tax (GST) and 10% contractor profit, what remains to carry out civil works is only 30-40%, which is further affected by the rising prices of fuel, building materials and labour. What is the quality of work we can do? What assets are we building for the State?" Mr. Kempanna asked. "With the pandemic's stress on the State's economy, successive Budgets' capital outlay has been less than impressive and in that only about 30% may be the real outlay to create assets. This is essentially making the State regress in development indices," he told *The Hindu*.

Weeks after the letter to the Prime Minister, B.S. Yediyurappa, who faced allegations of corruption against his family members, resigned. He was replaced by Basavaraj Bommai. "Though we never got a reply from the Prime Minister's Office, we really thought our letter had a role in the change of guard and hoped things would get better. But we have been disappointed that the systemic corruption seems to have only become worse under the new regime," Mr. Kempanna said. The Prime Minister says "*na khaunga, na khane doonga* (will not take bribes, nor allow anyone to do so)", but we are definitely not seeing it in action in Karnataka," Mr. Kempanna said.

Change of guard, but little else

The BJP fell short of a majority in the 2018 Assembly Elections, leading to a Janata Dal(Secular)–Congress coalition coming to power. But that did not last long when 17 MLAs from the two parties rebelled and defected to the BJP.

The process of defections also saw several allegations of inducements and corruption against Mr. Yediyurappa, who was also allegedly caught on tape trying to woo an MLA. His earlier tenure in 2008-2011 was also plagued by allegations of corruption in illegal mining. Mr. Yediyurappa resigned and was later arrested. However, he was acquitted in the case and has got a stay order on most other cases against him.

His second stint as Chief Minister was dominated by intra-party factionalism like his previous tenure. The faction opposed to him, in its attempt to unseat him, kept the political temperature high from day one. In February 2020, just eight months after he took over, two unsigned open letters by "hurt and loyal party MLAs" called Mr. Yediyurappa's son B.Y. Vijayendra "super CM". One of the letters even listed "agents working for Vijayendra brokering deals on his behalf", with their photographs and contact numbers. Mr. Vijayendra denied the allegations. However, he couldn't shake off the allegations. One of the defectors A.H. Vishwanath also made repeated allegations of corruption against him.

Ironically, Mr. Eshwarappa, in April last year, had complained to the Governor of Karnataka against Mr. Yediyurappa for interfering in his ministry. He even hinted at graft charges. A few months later, in October 2021, months after Mr. Yediyurappa handed over charge to Mr. Bommai and the Karnataka State Contractors' Association letter to the PMO, the Income Tax Department raided a set of contractors considered close to the ruling party.

Mutts dragged into controversy

Patil's death seems to have opened the floodgates. Suppliers of cattle fodder to goshalas have now written to the Prime Minister alleging non-clearance of bills due to their failure to pay a "40% kickback". Lingayat seer Dingaleshwar Swamiji has alleged even the mutts have to pay a "30% commission" to get budgetary grants for their institutions. However, several other seers whose institutions have also got grants from the BJP government have countered the allegation. Many BJP leaders have also come down heavily on Dingaleshwar Swamiji, who dared the government to prove its honesty by releasing grants to his mutt without "commission." The government, meanwhile, has also been hit by a police sub-inspector recruitment scam involving a BJP worker.

The State government has brushed aside these allegations in the hope that it will ride out this storm unscathed. It also opposed a debate on the issue in the Assembly at the recently concluded Budget session terming the allegations "baseless" with "no evidence whatsoever". The BJP has repeatedly attacked the Opposition Congress as having "no moral right" to raise the issue of corruption as it alleges that the previous Congress regime was also rocked by scams. It also attacked State Congress president D.K. Shivakumar, who was jailed by the Enforcement Directorate in 2019. He faces a host of cases including money laundering, suppression of income, benami properties among others.

Airing 'dirty secrets'

Former Lokayukta Justice N. Santosh Hegde, whose report on illegal mining led to the arrest of Mr. Yediyurappa earlier, hailed the "public airing of a dirty secret" that everyone was aware of. "The ruling and Opposition parties appear to admit there has been a system in place for paying commissions for contracts. Contractors have also essentially admitted to being party to corruption. Paying a bribe is also a crime. They are asking for lesser kickbacks, not its eradication. It is very sad to note that even people in holy positions like religious institutions are admitting to have paid a bribe," he said.

"In 1985, then Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi had said that for every rupee spent by the government, around 15 paise reached the last man. It seems to be true even today. Everybody talks of development. Now we, the people, wonder whose development - the State's or those ruling us?" he added. While Mr. Hegde's tenure saw several scams unearthed leading to the arrest of some Ministers, the Karnataka Lokayukta has been emasculated since then. First, when a subsequent Lokayukta himself was charged with corruption and then removed, and later when the Siddaramaiah-led Congress government took away its powers to probe cases under the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 and formed an Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB), which directly reported to the Chief Minister. While both the BJP and JD(S) promised in their poll manifestos of 2018 to strengthen the Karnataka Lokayukta by restoring all powers and dissolving the ACB, neither party who has enjoyed power since 2018 has sought to do it.

Justice P. Vishwanath Shetty, who recently ended his tenure as Karnataka Lokayukta, has also batted for the dissolution of the ACB and restoration of its powers to the Karnataka Lokayukta. In fact, post his retirement in January 2022, the institution has been without a head.

The Lokayukta has impleaded itself and filed an affidavit demanding the abolition of ACB in a writ petition pending before the Karnataka High Court. Justice Shetty said the State saw four Chief Ministers from all three prominent political parties during his tenure (2017-22) and that no government was better than the other in implementing the Lokayukta's recommendations. "Most have been ignored. The situation is so bad that an anti-corruption activist has filed a PIL in the High Court seeking directions to the State government to implement our recommendations," he had said in January 2022.

With no perceptible difference between parties on corruption, it was unlikely to become a poll issue in the upcoming 2023 Assembly elections, political observers feel. But the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), after its victory in Punjab, seeks to use it to its advantage.

AAP has launched an aggressive campaign in the State, forcing Ministers and veteran politicians to take notice. For instance, senior BJP leader Lahar Singh, speaking in the Karnataka Legislative Council, recently came close to admitting to corruption within his party when he warned all the three major political parties – the BJP, Congress and JD(S) - that if they did not bring about a major change in how they functioned, new parties like AAP would sweep the State and make them irrelevant.

Justice Hegde argued corruption couldn't be controlled legally or politically. "We are a society that today worships money and power. That needs to change. If people accused of social ills face the wrath of society, only then will we see some change," he said.

Mr. Kempanna, who has emerged as an unlikely face of the campaign against corruption, hopes whoever comes to power in 2023 will be forced to tackle the issue in the face of growing public anger. "As contractors, we agree that we have also been part of the corrupt system, and what we have done is wrong. Unless we correct this rigged system, the State is going to lag behind in all development indices very soon," he said.

For now, the association plans to stop all work across the State for a month and hold a mega protest rally in Bengaluru on May 25, demanding a cut in kickbacks. The demand is for a cut, not removal of kickbacks.

FROM PAGE ONE

Passenger trains give way to coal rakes

The State's Congress Media Cell Chairman Sushil Anand Shukla said, "It is not possible for just seven trains to cover the routes or bear the load of the passengers. So we will continue to protest and do whatever it takes to resume normal operations. It's the poor who are the worst affected by such decisions." Asked if CM Bhupesh Baghel, who left for Delhi on Friday evening, would also meet the Union Railway Minister to discuss the issue, Mr. Shukla said it was unlikely as Mr. Baghel was going specifically to attend an event.

A travel operator in Chhattisgarh, who chose to remain anonymous, told *The Hindu* that because of the Covid-induced disruption in the past two years, there was a lot of pent-up demand created during summer holidays and several weddings are also scheduled in April and May. Fewer trains means travel plans will either get cancelled or people will be forced to change multiple trains or use other modes of travel.

Jonny Krishnani, who runs a mobile shop in the State capital said his family was scheduled to leave for Jalandhar on April 27 but the situation forced them to abandon the trip. As it turned out the Chhattisgarh Express in which they had reserved their seats was cancelled but later resumed along with a few other trains. "So eventually the train departed on its scheduled time on May 27 but by then we had cancelled. One can't help feeling shortchanged," said Mr. Krishnani, who was at the Raipur railway station to cancel another ticket.

Apart from the long distance commuters, many daily commuters who come to the bigger cities for work or to find work will also be affected by the suspended services.

Coal production

As per data shared by Power Ministry, coal production by CIL has increased by 27.2% in April 2022 as compared to same period of last year and coal despatch has increased by 5.8%. The coal stock at CIL is 56.7 Mt and that at Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL) is 4.3 MT and at captive coal blocks is about 2.3 MT. "Thus, sufficient coal stock with coal companies is available," the Ministry said.

Core sector growth dips to 4.3% in March

Overall core sectors' output had grown by a sharp 12.6% a year ago. Coal output contracted by a marginal 0.1% in March, while crude oil production shrank by 3.4%, the sharpest fall in 10 months.

Electricity generation expanded at the fastest pace in seven months at 4.9%. The eight core industries comprise 40.27% of the Index of Industrial Production (IIP).

"The first signs of the power problem that we have today could be seen in a decline in coal output by 0.1% over the 0.3% growth in March 2021," said Bank of Baroda chief economist Madan Sabnavis.

8.8% uptick

Though the healthy 8.8% uptick in cement output can be attributed to the government's infrastructure spending push, Mr. Sabnavis said steel output growth was still weak at 3.7%. The bank expects IIP growth to be around 2.5%-3% in March as higher inflation and rising fuel prices would affect consumption revival.

Rating agency ICRA expects IIP to grow about 3% to 3.5%, despite a slowdown in core sector output growth as well as a non-oil merchandise exports during March. "The pace of core sector growth slowed to a sedate 4.3% in March 2022, in line with our forecast of 4.4%, with a slowdown in five of the eight constituents amid an encouraging pick-up in fertilizers, cement and electricity," ICRA chief economist Aditi Nayar noted, adding that output from all sectors except crude oil and fertilizers was above pre-COVID levels.

"Going forward, the rebound in economic activity would have provided a fillip to the core sector. However, the overall outlook has got subdued by the soaring raw material prices in international markets that could pressurise profit margins for domestic producers and constrain private sector investment," said CARE Ratings chief economist Rajani Sinha.

Govt. will handhold entrepreneurs, says PM

"I will urge you to make 10 to 15 groups of entrepreneurs, young and old, who should take up sectors in which you think we need to make an impact, study global practices of those sectors, how its market can be developed, point out shortcomings and suggest changes in government policies for it," Mr. Modi said.

"Take banking. Why is the banking sector not growing? Every week I get representations from Surat's diamond industry saying banks do not extend credit to them and request me to do something. So where are our policies going wrong," Mr. Modi said in his virtual address.

The Prime Minister added that he would also sit with them to understand and find solutions.

"You prepare documentations on what is the right policy that needs to be implemented by the government and make a presentation of your findings. I assure you that if you seek my time, I will also sit for your presentation on banking and other subjects, and also ask government officials to remain present," Mr Modi said.

He added that based on the presentations and inputs, the government will think of changing its policy to propel business growth, align it with the changing needs of businesses.

In his speech, Mr. Modi also listed new initiatives and measures his government has undertaken to boost the economic activities in the country.

"The government is working to create an atmosphere in which anyone coming from a very ordinary family can become an entrepreneur, dream about being one and take pride in it," he said.

Mr. Modi asked the Patidar community businessmen and entrepreneurs to look for new business opportunities in sectors such as food processing, organic farming, Ayurveda and traditional medicines.

He also listed the various policy measures the government has taken to support small and medium enterprises that create maximum jobs in the economy.

Curfew in Patiala after clash over anti-Khalistan march, 1 arrested

CM Bhagwant Mann calls for peace as Opposition parties slam AAP govt.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHANDIGARH

Curfew was imposed in Patiala district of Punjab on Friday after a clash broke out between two groups over staging a march in Patiala city against the pro-Khalistan movement.

Four persons, including two police personnel, were injured in the incident, in which people from the two groups threw stones at each other and brandished swords near the 'Kali Mata' temple in the city.

Later in the day, the police arrested Harish Singla, "working president" of a group which called itself the Shiv Sena (Bal Thackeray), for taking out the procession without permission and instigating violence.

A source in the administration told *The Hindu* that the Shiv Sena (Bal Thackeray) had sought permission to hold a march in the city against the backdrop of the announcement by the Sikhs for Justice (SFJ) to mark the foundation day of Khalistan on April 29.

The permission was, however, denied by the administration.

In reaction to the Shiv Sena's idea to hold the march, a group of Khalistan sympathisers announced that it would hold a countermarch.

Harpal Singh, Superintendent of Police, Patiala (city), said the clash started after the group members came face to face near the temple. "It all began after rumours started surrounding the march. The anti-social elements threw stones at each other, resulting in injuries. Police were, however, quick to control the situation," he said.

"While the members of Shiv Sena were assembled in one part of the city, there were rumours about them starting the march, and as a reaction, the members of the other group, who were at a local gurdwara came out on the streets," Deputy Commissioner Sakshi Sawhney told *The Hindu*.

Ms. Sawhney said while the situation in Patiala was under control, curfew had been imposed in the district as a measure of abundant caution.

"The curfew shall be imposed in the district from 7 p.m. of April 29, 2022 to 6 a.m. of April 30, 2022 for maintenance of peace and law and order," an order said.

Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann said, "The incident of clashes in Patiala is deeply unfortunate. I spoke with the DGP, peace has been restored in the area. We are closely monitoring the situation and will not let anyone create disturbance in the State. Punjab's peace and harmony is of utmost importance."

The Opposition parties hit out at the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government, blaming it for the deteriorating law and order situation in the State.

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, in a tweet, said, "Visuals from Patiala are disturbing. I repeat, Peace & Harmony are most imperative in a sensitive border state like Punjab. This is not the place to carry out experiments. Earnestly appeal to the Punjab govt to ensure law and order is maintained."

Former Chief Minister Amarinder Singh expressed surprise as to how the administration could allow the situation to escalate. "Even a layman could foresee and make out that the proposed "protest march" by one group of people could lead to violence. It is surprising why the police did not take any preemptive action," he said.

Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) leader Daljit Singh Cheema said that Mr. Mann should fulfil his responsibilities and immediately tackle the law and order situation which had plummeted to an all-time low in the State.

(With PTI inputs)

On the boil: Brickbats lie on the ground after a clash broke out in Patiala on Friday. • PTI

Minorities panel seeks report

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The National Commission for Minorities on Friday asked the Punjab Chief Secretary for a report on the clash in Patiala.

The commission's Joint Secretary, A. Dhanalakshmi, wrote a letter to Punjab Chief Secretary Anirudh Tiwari seeking a detailed report within seven days.

The commission earlier had also taken cognisance of media reports about the attack on Sikhs, including the family of Mastan Singh, former president of Pakistan Sikh Gurudwara Prabandhak Committee, at Shri Nankana Sahib. The commission has asked the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) to take up the matter with Pakistan.

The alleged incident took place on April 19.

Sikh community a strong link between India and other nations, says PM

It embodies 'One India, Great India'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday said the Sikh community embodied the ideals of "*Ek Bharat, Shreshth Bharat*" (One India, Great India) and had been a strong link in relations between India and other countries.

Addressing a Sikh delegation at his official residence in New Delhi in the presence of Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri, Mr. Modi said the entire country felt grateful to Sikhs for their contribution in the freedom struggle as well as in the post-Independence era. The delegation comprised Sikhs from different walks of life.

The new India was touching new dimensions and leaving its mark on the whole world, Mr. Modi said, adding that the period of the coronavirus pandemic was the biggest example of this.

"At the beginning of the pandemic, people of an old mindset were expressing concerns about India but now people are giving examples of the country," he said. "Earlier it was being said that with such a large population, from where will India get the vaccine, how will people's lives be saved? But today India has emerged as the manufacturer of the biggest protective shield of vaccines," Mr. Modi said.

Lauds diaspora

Lauding the Indian diaspora across the globe, Mr. Modi said he had always considered them as the country's ambassadors. "All of you who are out of India are the loud voice of '*Maa Bharati*', its lofty identity," he said. The people of India went to different parts of the world without any resources and achieved success through their labour, adding that "this is the spirit of the new India".

Narendra Modi

He spoke of his own connection with the Sikh community at the meeting, saying that "going to gurdwaras, spending time in service, getting langar, and staying at the homes of Sikh families" have been a part of his life. "The feet of Sikh sants from time to time keep falling in the Prime Minister's residence here. I keep getting the good fortune of their company," he said.

Mr. Modi has met members of the Sikh community at frequent intervals. He had recently delivered an address from the Red Fort at an event to mark the 400th Parkash Parab (birth anniversary) of ninth Sikh guru Tegh Bahadur.

21 NPF MLAs join NDPP in Nagaland

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GUWAHATI

The Naga People's Front (NPF) received a jolt on Friday with 21 of its 25 MLAs joining the Nationalist Democratic Progressive Party (NDPP) in Nagaland. Among those who crossed over is former Chief Minister T.R. Zeliang.

The development has come less than eight months after the NPF joined the coalition government of the NDPP and the BJP headed by Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio, leaving the 60-member Assembly Opposition-less.

An order issued by Nagaland Assembly Speaker Sharingain Longkumer on Friday said he received a claim of merger from 21 NPF legislators led by Mr. Zeliang with the NDPP.

The NDPP was formed in 2017 after supporters of Mr. Rio broke away from the NPF.

'Gujarat is a laboratory for governance experiments'

Will take this model ahead: BJP chief

MAHESH LANGA
AHMEDABAD

While taking stock of the preparations for the coming Assembly election in Gujarat, BJP president J. P. Nadda on Friday said the State was a "laboratory" for the BJP on matters pertaining to governance and party organisation.

"Gujarat is a laboratory of governance and party organisation. As a party chief, it is also my responsibility to take this model ahead," he told reporters in Gandhinagar.

Mr. Nadda said successful "experiments" to develop the party and make it a "medium of change" were carried out in Gujarat when Prime Minister Narendra Modi was first a party office-bearer and later the Chief Minister of the State.

"Modi*ji* created a development model in Gujarat. We are now seeing that model being replicated nationally," Mr. Nadda said.

J.P. Nadda

Mr. Nadda said that the sudden change of guard effected by the party in 2021 in Gujarat when the then Chief Minister Vijay Rupani and his Cabinet resigned and Bhupendra Patel replaced him was also an experiment carried out as part of the party's strategy.

He also lashed out at Opposition parties for practising caste-based politics while crediting the Prime Minister for initiating "politics of development" in the country.

'Power, coal crisis due to govt. mismanagement'

Centre cannot run away from its responsibility, Cong. says

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The long power cuts in several parts of the country are the result of an "artificial crsis" in the availability of coal and reflect the Narendra Modi government's "misgovernance and mismanagement", the Congress said on Friday.

In a Facebook post, former party president Rahul Gandhi said that on April 20, he had urged the government to stop running the bulldozer of hatred and start power plants of the country. "Today the coal and electricity crisis has created havoc in the entire country. I am saying again – This crisis will destroy small industries, due to which unemployment will increase further. Small children cannot stand this scorching heat. The lives of patients admitted in hospitals are at stake. There will be financial loss by stopping rail, metro services. Modi*ji*, do you not care about the country and the people?" said Mr. Gandhi in the post.

Addressing a press conference, Congress spokesperson Gourav Vallabh said that as on Friday morning the demand for power was 16,035 MW but total power available for supply was only 2,304 MW and that too at ₹12 per MW.

He said 16 States were forced to have daily power cuts of up to 10 hours as power stations with 72,074 MW capacity were not operating due to non-availability of coal.

"Why are these power plants not operating? Why are States being forced to buy power at ₹12 per MW? Against the daily demand of 22 lakh tonnes of coal, why are only 16 lakh tonnes are being supplied.? What is the government's plan to cater to the peak power demand and resolve the current power crisis?" he said.

"This power crisis is artificial and is due to the poor governance and poor management in coal distribution. This is purely misgovernance," he added.

The Congress spokesperson claimed that of a total 173 power plants, 106 plants had less than 25% of their usual reserves and States were being forced to buy power at higher rates. Asserting that the Centre cannot run away from its responsibility, he said the Ministries of Power, Coal and Railways should jointly find a solution to the crisis.

Assam court grants bail to Mevani

FIR against MLA falsely registered, it observes

RAHUL KARMAKAR
GUWAHATI

A court in western Assam's Barpeta on Friday granted bail to Independent Gujarat MLA and Dalit rights activist Jignesh Mevani, arrested twice in as many cases since April 20, after observing that the first information report (FIR) against him was falsely registered.

The Barpeta District and Sessions Court gave Mr. Mevani bail on a personal recognisance (PR) bond of ₹1,000 in the second case, of allegedly assaulting and pawing a woman police officer on April 21, after he was brought to Assam from Gujarat's Palanpur.

The first case is related to an allegedly offensive tweet on Prime Minister Narendra Modi that he had posted on April 18.

"He is likely to be released tonight or tomorrow (Saturday) morning as the formalities in the first case are to yet be completed after he was granted bail by the Chief Judicial Magistrate (CJM) in Kokrajhar," the MLA's legal counsel and senior advocate Angshuman Bora told *The Hindu*.

Kokrajhar is about 80 km west of Barpeta.

Mr. Bora said the entire process of Mr. Mevani's arrest was illegal and the court accepted it. The MLA thus merits release as a free citizen of India, he added.

Mr. Mevani was first arrested by the Assam Police on April 20 from Gujarat's Palanpur based on an FIR lodged against him by Arup Kumar Dey, a Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) executive member in Assam's autonomous Bodoland Territorial Council, for an alleged controversial tweet against Mr. Modi.

Jignesh Mevani

Soon after he was granted bail by the Kokrajhar CJM court on April 25, the Barpeta police re-arrested him in the "assault and outrage of modesty" case. The Barpeta CJM court sent him to five days of police custody on April 27.

A fresh application for his bail was filed in the Barpeta District and Sessions Court the following day. Hearing the bail plea, the court dismissed all the charges against Mr. Mevani.

No slang words

The court said that although the Barpeta police station had registered the FIR under Section 294 of the IPC, allegedly for hurling slang words at the woman police officer, there was no mention of the words uttered. In the light of this, the court said the case should not have been registered under the Section.

"Further, pointing of fingers at the first informant (policewoman) with the intent to frighten her and pushing her down into her seat with force cannot be held to be using criminal force by the accused with intent to prevent the first informant from discharging her duties. Therefore, commission of the offence under section 353 IPC prima facie is not established," the court's order read.

"The alleged pushing down of the first informant into her seat also cannot be held to have been done with intent to outrage her modesty and that too, in presence of two police officers. No sane person will ever try to outrage the modesty of a lady police officer in presence of two male officers and there is nothing in the record to hold that the accused is an insane person," the court said.

Enact loudspeaker law in Bihar: BJP Minister

No need for such a measure, says JD(U)

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
PATNA

The echoes of the call to remove loudspeakers from mosques in Uttar Pradesh reached Bihar on Friday with BJP leader Janak Ram saying that the Uttar Pradesh law on loudspeakers would have its impact in the neighbouring State too.

"No religion is bigger than the country's law. The country and the States are being governed by law. So if this law has come in U.P., it will have its impact in Bihar as well," Mr. Ram, who is the Minister for Mines and Geology in the Nitish Kumar Cabinet, said. "Leaders from the Centre and the State will sit together to mull over it and implement it in Bihar," he said.

Earlier too the BJP Minister had remarked, "I want to remind the 13 crore people of Bihar that when there is Holi, Diwali, Chhath puja and other Hindu festivals, there is prohibition on playing loud sounds." "But the people who refer to the Constitution should know when loudspeakers are played in mosques, children studying face difficulties. People belonging to all communities, who stay in the vicinity, are affected."

But the BJP's ally JD(U) and the Opposition Rashtriya Janata Dal slammed the BJP leader's remark, saying there was no need for such a measure in Bihar.

"There should not be use of force in religious matters. All religions must be respected," said Shrawan Kumar, senior JD(U) leader and Minister of State for Rural Development and Parliamentary Affairs. Leader of the Opposition in the Assembly Tejashwi Yadav said, "All religions should be respected. BJP always does divisive politics in society."

Discussed curbs on NGOs, J&K issue: EU official

Govt. statement makes no reference to the topics

SUHASINI HAIDAR
SOBHANA K. NAIR
NEW YORK/NEW DELHI

Europe's top human rights official says he raised a number of concerns during official meetings in New Delhi with the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) and Minority Affairs Minister Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi, including funding restrictions on NGOs, the recent communal violence, the situation in Jammu & Kashmir, and the condition of religious minorities.

However, the official statement by the NHRC and the Minority Affairs Ministry did not refer to the contentious issues being raised. The concerns were reportedly raised when European Union Special Representative of Human Rights Eamon Gilmore, who was a guest speaker at the MEA's Raisina Dialogue this week, met with the Indian officials along with his delegation.

In separate tweets on Friday, Mr. Gilmore said he had "also" discussed "the NHRC's role in relation to FCRA, detentions, bail, sedition and anti-terrorism laws, UAPA, minorities and individual cases". Mr. Gilmore linked the list to the NHRC version, which instead only said that Chairperson Justice Arun Mishra "[had asked] the delegation to work together to ameliorate the cause of human rights across the globe". Ugo Astuto, Ambassador of the European Union to India, was also present at the meeting with Mr. Naqvi.

Delegation meet: Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi with Eamon Gilmore, left, and Ugo Astuto in New Delhi. PTI

"Besides a brief insight into the functioning of the NHRC, various aspects of human rights were also discussed including the issue of patent & affordability of lifesaving drugs and problems of terrorism," the statement said.

According to sources, Mr. Naqvi reportedly told the delegation that "not a single major communal riot has taken place in India since 2014". Mr. Naqvi also dismissed Mr. Gilmore's contentions as "isolated incidents" which have been given "communal colour".

Mr. Gilmore's description of the meeting with Mr. Naqvi was also at odds with the official government version put out. While the Minority Affairs Minister had tweeted that he "apprised the delegation of the effective results of welfare programmes being carried out by the Narendra Modi goverment for socio-economic-educational empowerment of all sections of society including the Minorities", Mr. Gilmore's response referencing the earlier statement said that he had discussed, "FCRA, use of sedition and anti-terrorism laws, detentions, the situation of minorities, communal violence, situation in Jammu Kashmir, and individual cases," with Mr. Naqvi.

The MEA, the NHRC and the Minority Affairs Ministry did not respond to requests for a comment on the issues discussed during the meetings in Delhi, or on the reason for the discrepancy between the two. Sources told *The Hindu* that Mr. Gilmore's comments had been "strongly countered".

While the EU delegation did not respond to a specific question about the "individual" cases mentioned, sources said Mr. Gilmore discussed the death of Jesuit priest Stan Swamy in custody in July 2021 during the meeting. Earlier, Mr. Gilmore had called Mr. Swamy as "a defender of indigenous peoples' rights".

An NHRC official said Mr. Swamy's case was an individual one and the commission had told the Maharashtra government to ensure "every possible medical treatment" was provided to him.

(With inputs from Damini Nath)

'Russian aggression must not be tolerated'

Diplomat sounds note of caution

KALLOL BHATTACHERJEE
NEW DELHI

Jean Asselborn

On February 10, 2007, President Vladimir Putin of Russia addressed the Munich Conference in Germany. The audience greeted the Russian leader warmly. But his aggressive speech took them by surprise. The unipolar system of the world, that the U.S. is trying to promote, is "pernicious", said Mr. Putin. Following the February 24 invasion of Ukraine, that speech of President Putin is being discussed widely. One of those who attended the speech is Jean Asselborn, the Foreign Minister of Luxembourg and one of the few leading diplomats with extensive experience of diplomacy with Russia.

Though he heard Mr. Putin's warning in Munich, Mr. Asselborn is nevertheless surprised by the turn of events in Ukraine after the Russian invasion. "I never expected this from Russia. There was a certain amount of trust in Russia in a lot of European countries," he said in an exclusive interview with *The Hindu*.

Looking at the turn of events in Europe, Mr. Asselborn says, "Relationship was always complicated and especially after Georgia operation in 2008 and the operation against Crimea in 2014. Nobody expected that they could do what they have done. This really changed the world and we have to pay attention because if this is tolerated, then it can happen also in other parts of the world."

Mr. Asselborn has been a leading politician and policy maker of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg and he, along with others in the NATO and the EU, were instrumental in welcoming Russia to the diplomatic high table in the 1990s.

"Those were difficult meetings but they did take place. A lot of things were done. From our side, we took up the issue of reduction of arms," said Mr. Asselborn during his visit to Delhi to attend the Raisina Dialogue. Introducing the guest from Luxembourg, External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar referred to him as his "seniormost colleague" as he has been the foreign minister of Luxembourg since 2004.

Mr. Asselborn turned 73 on April 27. A child of post-World War II Europe, he was born in Steinfort of Luxembourg, which was occupied by Nazi Germany from 1940 till September 1944. He began his public life as a trade union activist. This was followed by his arrival on the national scene of Luxembourg in 1984, when he became a member of Luxembourg's Parliament. In 2004, following election victory, Luxembourg Socialist Workers Party appointed Mr. Asselborn as the Foreign Minister, a post he has maintained till now turning him into the "longest serving foreign minister in the European Union".

(For full interview, go to bit.ly/JeanAsselborn)

6 of 7 defence firms carved out of OFB show provisional profits

Govt. says turnover of more than ₹8,400 crore achieved

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Six of the seven new defence companies created by the corporatisation of the Ordnance Factory Board (OFB) last October have reported provisional profits during the initial six months of their business from October 1, 2021 to March 31, 2022, the Defence Ministry said on Friday.

"Within the first six months, the new companies have achieved the turnover of more than ₹8,400 crore, which is significant considering the Value of Issue of erstwhile OFB during the previous financial years." Except Yantra India Ltd. (YIL), all other companies – Munitions India Ltd. (MIL); Armoured Vehicles Nigam Ltd. (AVANI); Advanced Weapons and Equipment India Ltd. (AWE India); Troop Comforts Ltd. (TCL); India Optel Ltd. (IOL) and Gliders India Ltd. (GIL) – have reported provisional profits, the statement said.

The Ministry stated that within a short time since their inception, these companies have been able to secure domestic contracts and export orders valuing more than ₹3,000 crore and ₹600 crore, respectively. The MIL has bagged one of the biggest-ever export order of ammunition of ₹500 crore. These companies are also taking measures for developing new products through in-house as well as collaborative efforts. The YIL has bagged orders of about ₹251 crore from the Indian Railways for axles.

After the dissolution of the OFB, all outstanding indents were grandfathered and converted into deemed contracts valuing about ₹70,776 crore. Against the targets for FY 2021-22, ₹7,765 crore was credited to the new defence companies as 60% mobilisation advance before the commencement of business date. An amount of ₹2,765.95 crore has been released to these new companies for capital expenditure and equity, the Ministry said.

Chief Justices of HCs urged to send names to fill vacancies

126 judicial appointments made last year, says CJI Ramana

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Chief Justice of India N.V. Ramana urged the Chief Justices of High Courts to extend their "wholehearted cooperation" and speed up the process of recommending names to fill up judicial vacancies in their High Courts.

"I request the Chief Justices of High Courts, which are still having number of vacancies, to forward the names for elevation at the earliest," he said at the 39th Chief Justices' Conference held at the Supreme Court on Friday.

The CJI said that last year saw High Courts' Collegiums act quickly to recommend names, following which 126 judicial vacancies in High Courts could be filled up within just a year.

CJI N.V. Ramana

Mr. Ramana said 50 more High Court appointments were expected soon. "You may recall that one of my first communications to you was about the filling up of vacancies. I have also requested all of you, in our very first online interaction, to expedite the process of recommending names for elevation to High Courts, with an emphasis on social diversity... Due to our collective efforts, we could fill 126 vacancies in various High Courts, in less than an year. We are expecting 50 more appointments. This remarkable feat could be achieved because of your wholehearted co-operation and commitment to the institution," he said.

The conference, held after a six-year gap, draws the foundation for the joint conference between the Chief Justices and Chief Ministers to be held on Saturday. It will be inaugurated by the Prime Minister.

THRISSUR CORPORATION - ELECTRICITY DEPARTMENT
E-Tender Notice

PDS-2104/22 Date: 28-04-2022

SBD for appointment of Project Management Agency for TCED

For more details please log on to www.etenders.kerala.gov.in for contact Electricity Department, Thrissur Corporation on working hours (10.15 am to 5.15 pm), Ph: 0487-2423613

Sd/-
Assistant Secretary

INVITATION TO BID

GMR Hyderabad International Airport Limited (GHIAL) invites sealed bids under single stage two bid system (Technical & Commercial Bids in separate envelopes) for **"Hiring of agency for deployment of Private Security Agency for Non-Core functions at Hyderabad Airport, for a period of 3 years"**. For details, interested parties may download the tender document free of charge from **www.hyderabad.aero/tenders.aspx** between 30.04.2022 to 14.05.2022 and submit their bid on or before 16.05.2022 as prescribed in the Tender Document

HIA/45/PREM ASSOCIATES

ମୁଖ୍ୟ ନିର୍ମାଣ ଯନ୍ତ୍ରୀଙ୍କ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟାଳୟ, ଗ୍ରାମ୍ୟ ନିର୍ମାଣ ମଣ୍ଡଳ, ବ୍ରହ୍ମପୁର

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER
RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, BERHAMPUR

At:-Ambapua, Po:-Engineering School Near Income Tax Office, Berhampur-760011

(E-Mail:- serwbpr2004@yahoo.com ; Tel / FAX:- 0680-2404287)

NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e-Procurement

Bid Identification No. Online Tender/08-2022-23/BPR

Identification No.	Name of work	No. of Works	Approx. Estimated Cost (in lakh)	Class of Contractor	Period of Completion
Online Tender / 08-2022-23/ BPR	Building Works	01 No	Rs. 347.38 lakhs	"A"Class & "Special" Class as applicable	15 (Fifteen) Calendar Month as provided

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of tender online for bidding	
		From	To
Chief Construction Engineer, R.W. Circle, Berhampur.	Online Tender / 08-2022-23 / BPR	04.05.2022 at 10.00 A.M.	18.05.2022 upto 3.00 P.M.

(i) No EMD is required as per O.M.No.8484 Dt.05.04.2022 of Finance Department, Govt of Odisha. But Bid Security declaration should be furnished by the bidders as mentioned in the DTCN.

(ii) Non-submission of the information/documents through online by the bidder as per the items mentioned in the eligible criteria of the DTCN will also liable for rejection of his tender.

Further details & Corrigendum if any can be seen from the website: - www.tendersodisha.gov.in

O-141 : Sd/- P.K.Jena, Chief Construction Engineer, R.W.Circle, Berhampur

OIPR-25071/11/0015/2223

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

SUBJECT : FILLING UP OF POST OF DIRECTOR, SCHOOL OF PLANNING AND ARCHITECTURE, BHOPAL IN THE PAY SCALE OF RS. 2,10,000/- ON CONTRACT BASIS

Applications are invited from suitable candidates below the age of **65** years for appointment to the post of Director in the School of Planning & Architecture (SPA) at Bhopal (Madhya Pradesh), an institution of national importance under the Ministry of Education, Government of India, in the pay scale of Rs. 2,10,000/- plus Special Allowance of Rs. 11,250/- plus other allowances as admissible under the rules of School, on contact basis for a period of five years.

Eligible and interested persons may apply online at https://recruitmentportal.mnit.ac.in. Online window shall be open **upto 31st May, 2022 upto 12:00 midnight**.

The detailed advertisement alongwith other necessary information is given on the website **www.education.gov.in** and **www.spabhopal.ac.in**

TNPL TAMILNADU NEWSPRINT AND PAPERS LIMITED
Kagithapuram - 639 136. KARUR Dist. Tamil Nadu
Ph. : 04324 - 277001 (10 Lines). E-mail : purchase.wp@tnpl.co.in

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Tender No.	Material Description	Due Date
222313 000356	Enlistment of Suppliers for Imported Waste Paper	13.05.2022

Detailed terms & conditions, Tender Fee, EMD are available in tender document at our websites: www.tnpl.com / www.tenders.tn.gov.in

DIPR/2075/Tender/2022 *TNPL - Maker of bagasse based eco-friendly Paper*

"சேறுகளை கடந்து கருத்தில் ஆடைந்தோம், சுறுகளை புரிந்து விரிந்தில் படையிடோம்."

TIRUMALA TIRUPATI DEVASTHANAMS : TIRUPATI
Marketing Department e-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE

e-tender cum e-Reverse tendering is invited for procurement of the following item by the Marketing Department, T.T.D., Tirupati.

Name of the Item	Quantity	EMD Amount	Download Starting and Ending Dates
Cow Ghee with Agmark special Grade through Tins	72,000 Kgs.	Rs. 6,00,000/-	26-04-2022 11-05-2022

For tender notice and tender details log on to the web site http://www.tirumala.org and https://tender.apeprocurement.gov.in/ & https://konugolu.ap.gov.in. For further details contact phone numbers: 0877-2264079, 2264555. Fax No.0877-2264554.

Roc.No.PR4/13941/Adv.No.30/PRO/2022, Dated:29-04-2022 EXECUTIVE OFFICER

TIRUMALA TIRUPATI DEVASTHANAMS : TIRUPATI
NOTICE INVITING TENDER

e-tenders are invited for **Supply of Paper Materials in different categories for TTD Printing Press in FY-2022-2023 (1st Spell). For Tender Notice & Details** please log on the web site **http://www.tirumala.org** and **https://tender.ap.eprocurement.gov.in.** For further details contact: **0877-2264355 (or) 0877-2264292.**

Roc.No.PR4/13941/Adv.No.32/PRO/2022, Dated:29-04-2022 EXECUTIVE OFFICER

ODISHA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(A Government of Odisha Undertaking)
Regd. Office: Janpath, Bhubaneswar-751022
CIN:U40102OR2004SGC007553

TENDER ALERT

1) E-Tender Notice No.CPC-44/2021-22: (Lot-I)- Supply, laying, termination & erection of 33kV XLPE, 630 mm^2 Copper cable and accessories including civil works for interconnection of 20MVA, 132/33kV Transformer bays at 2x20 MVA Grid S/S, Chandipur. **(Lot-II)-** Supply, laying, termination & erection of 33kV XLPE, 1000 mm^2 Copper cable and accessories including civil works for interconnection of 40MVA, 132/33kV Power Transformer with 33kV transformer bays at 220/132/33kV Grid S/S, Dhamara at Balimunda. Complete set of bidding documents are available on **www.tenderwizard.com/OPTCL** portal and OPTCL's official website: **www.optcl.co.in.**

HIPR-05/2022-23
CAD-361
OIPR-04011/11/0017/2223

भाकृअनुप - भारतीय तेल ताड़ अनुसंधान संस्थान
ICAR-INDIAN INSTITUTE OF OIL PALM RESEARCH
(An ISO 9001:2008 Certified Institute)
पेदवेगी-534450, पश्चिमी गोदावरी जिला, आंध्र प्रदेश, भारत
Pedavegi-534 450, West Godavari District, Andhra Pradesh, India. Fax : 08812-259531, Tel : 08812-259409 / 532 / 524 email : director.iiopr@icar.gov.in, Web: http://dopr.gov.in

TENDER NOTICE

The Director, ICAR–Indian Institute of Oil Palm Research, Pedavegi invites bids in sealed cover from the eligible bidders towards **"Expression of Interest (EoI) for licensing on non-exclusive basis for manufacturing of Ablation Tool"**. Please visit https://eprocure.gov.in/epublish/app (Tender ID 2022_ICAR_655867_1) and ICAR-IIOPR Website https://iiopr.icar.gov.in/ for complete details of the Tender.

Asst. Administrative Officer (S)
ICAR-IIOPR, Pedavegi.

SOUTHERN RAILWAY

E-TENDER NOTICE No. SA-E-1-2022-23-W

Divisional Railway Manager / Electrical / Salem Division, Salem-5 for and on behalf of the President of India invites E-Tender for the under mentioned works. Online bids only will be accepted. For detailed NIT, qualification criteria, bidding document, tender submission etc., can be viewed / downloaded from website portal **www.ireps.gov.in**

E-Tender Notice No. & Date and Name of Work	Details
1) SA-E-1-2022-23-W1 Dt.18.05.2022 Salem Div.- Provision of Eco-friendly things in CBE junction - Phase I - Electrical arrangements.	Approx. Cost - ₹ 1008793.00/- EMD - ₹ 20200.00/- Completion Period - 3 Months
2) SA-E-1-2022-23-W2 Dt.18.05.2022 Salem Div.- Erode-Creation of dedicated water supply facilities to Camtech Booster Pumps - Electrical arrangements - Electrical arrangements.	Approx. Cost - ₹ 797893.00/- EMD - ₹ 16000.00/- Completion Period - 3 Months
3) SA-E-1-2022-23-W3 Dt.18.05.2022 Salem Div.- Construction of Rolling in / out Examination Points in various depot over Salem Division (ED&MTP)-Electrical arrangements.	Approx. Cost - ₹ 259030.00/- EMD - ₹ 5200.00/- Completion Period - 3 Months
4) SA-E-1-2022-23-W4 Dt.18.05.2022 Salem Div.- Provision of redundancy by using High Availability Single Section Digital Axle Counter (55 Section) in JTJ-ED-PTJ, ED-KRR-TP, SA-KRR, SA-VRI and CBF-MTP Sections over SA Division.	Approx. Cost - ₹ 4368769.00/- EMD - ₹ 87400.00/- Completion Period - 6 Months
5) SA-E-1-2022-23-W5 Dt.18.05.2022 Salem Div.- Elimination of Overhead lines by Providing LTUG cables with Feeder Pillar arrangements at Salem, Erode and Podanur Railway Colonies - Electrical Arrangements.	Approx. Cost - ₹ 12102524.00/- EMD - ₹ 210500.00/- Completion Period - 6 Months
6) SA-E-1-2022-23-W6 Dt.18.05.2022 (OEM) SA Divn: Reconstruction of Staff Quarters Type II - 22 Units, Type IV - 7 Units and Type V - 1 Unit - Lift Extension Work - Electrical Arrangement.	Approx. Cost - ₹ 1420000.00/- EMD - ₹ 28400.00/- Completion Period - 6 Months
7) SA-E-1-2022-23-W7 Dt.18.05.2022 Southern Railway - Provision of Train Collision Avoidance System in lieu of ACD at JTJ-SA-ED Section-Electrical Arrangements.	Approx. Cost - ₹ 5154906.00/- EMD - ₹ 103100.00/- Completion Period - 6 Months
For all the Works Closing Time & Date	**15.00 hrs. on 18.05.2022**
For all the Works Bids Opening Time & Date	**15.30 hrs on 18.05.2022**

All Addendum / Corrigendum, Time extension, Clarifictions, etc. will be uploaded in the website portal **www.ireps.gov.in** only and will not be published separately in Newspapers. Bidders should regularly visit website to keep themselves updated.

Divisional Railway Manager (Electrical), Salem

Follow us on : twitter.com/GMSRailway

OFFICE OF ADDITIONAL CHIEF ENGINEER
PHED, JAIPUR REGION-I, JAIPUR
Jyoti Nagar, Sahakar Marg, Jaipur-302005
Phone: 0141-2740170(o) e-mail: ace1.jpr.phed@rajasthan.gov.in

No.: F()/ACE/PHED/Ar. Mahwa/NIT 02/2022-23/1389-1410

Date: 26/4/2022

(CORRIGENDUM e-NIT NO. 02/2022-23)

On behalf of the governor of Rajasthan online tenders were invited from eligible bidders vide this office NIT No 02/2022-23 Corrigendum regarding Date Extension for submission (Corrigendum No. 1) is being issued under this NIT. Please check details on website https://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in & http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in.

NIT NO.	NIB Code	UBN No.
02/2022-23	PHE2223A0017	PHE2223WLOB00018

SAVE WATER-SAVE LIFE

DIPR/C/6080

Addl. Chief Engineer
PHED, Jaipur Region-I, Jaipur

GOVERNMENT OF TAMILNADU
ENERGY DEPARTMENT

Applications are invited to the posts of Member (Legal) and Member, Tamil Nadu Electricity Regulatory Commission upto 6.00 P.M. on 16.05.2022. Further details are available at: http://www.tn.gov.in/department/7

Additional Chief Secretary to Government

DIPR/418/Display/2022

GOVERNMENT OF KERALA

INVITATION FOR EMPANELMENT OF CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS FOR APPOINTMENT AS STATUTORY AUDITORS IN ADANI VIZHINJAM PORT PRIVATE LIMITED (AVPPL)

VISL/2015-16/ACC-36 30.04.2022

On behalf of Government of Kerala (Authority), Vizhinjam International Seaport Ltd (VISL), invites application for empanelment of Chartered Accountants for appointment as Statutory Auditors in Adani Vizhinjam Port Private Limited.

For more details please visit : www.vizhinjamport.in/tender.php.
Last date of receipt of Application: 17th May, 2022, 3.00 pm IST.

Implementing Agency
Vizhinjam International Seaport Ltd (VISL)
(A Government of Kerala Undertaking)
9th Floor, KSRTC Bus Terminal Complex
Thampanoor, Thiruvananthapuram-695001
Kerala, India. Tel : +91 471 2328616 / 14

SOUTHERN RAILWAY
(CONSTRUCTION ORGANISATION)

E-TENDER NOTICE No. 01-CECNMS-2022-E-256095 Dated: 22.04.2022
E-TENDER NOTICE No. 02-CECNMS-2022-E-258347 Dated: 26.04.2022

For and on behalf of The President of India, The Chief Engineer, Construction, Southern Railway, Egmore, Chennai - 600 008 invites e-tender for the following work(s) as per Notice Inviting Tender (NIT) in our portal **www.ireps.gov.in** The Tenderers / Contractors intending to apply for the tender needs to get enrolled in the portal **www.ireps.gov.in** and only online tenders will be accepted.

NAME OF THE WORK
Final Location Survey for New BG line between AVADI - SRIPERUMBUDUR - GUDUVANCHERI (60 Km) with spur line from Sriperumbudur to Irungattukottai. (7 Km)
AJJ-RU Section : Proposed construction of ROAD OVER BRIDGE at Km. 79/0 consisting of 1 x 46m (Sk) between Arakkonam and Tiruttani Stations.

Cash Value (₹)	Earnest Money Deposit (₹)	Period of Completion in Months	Closing Date @ 15.00 hrs.
8107647.97	162200	6 (SIX)	17.05.2022
70470430.21	502400	7 (SEVEN)	18.05.2022

For further details, please refer to website portal **www.ireps.gov.in** or contact Office of the Chief Administrative Officer, Construction, E.V.R. High Road, Egmore, Chennai - 600 008.

Chief Engineer (Construction), Egmore, Chennai - 600 008

Follow us on : twitter.com/GMSRailway

The Kerala Minerals and Metals Ltd.
(A Govt. of Kerala Undertaking)
Sankaramangalam, Chavara - 691 583
Kollam, Kerala, India. Phone: 0476-2686722 to 2686733 (12 Lines), E-mail: contact@kmml.com

TENDER NOTICE

Competitive Tenders are invited for the following. For more details please visit the E-Tendering Portal **https://etenders.kerala.gov.in or www.kmml.com**

No.	Tender ID	Items
1	2022_KMML_488181_1	For the supply of CS Pipe
2	2022_KMML_487803_1	For the supply of Motor Controls Centres (MCCs)
3	2022_KMML_487484_1	For the supply of Stretch Wrapping Film-26280Kg
4	2022_KMML_487190_1	For the supply of HDPE Liner 1.5mm thick-5000M2

Chavara, 29.04.2022 **Sd/-, DGM (Mtls), For the Kerala Minerals and Metals Ltd**

Our products: Titanium Dioxide, Titanium Tetra Chloride, Nano Titanium, Titanium Sponge, Rutile, Zircon & Sillimanite

Kejriwal meets Mamata in New Delhi

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal met West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee in Delhi. This is the first meeting between Mr. Kejriwal and Ms. Banerjee after the Aam Aadmi Party's resounding victory in the recent Assembly elections in Punjab.

Sources described the meeting as a courtesy call. The meeting lasted for more than an hour. There were no details forthcoming about the discussions between the two. The meeting comes at an important juncture where both the AAP and the Trinamool are trying to ensure a pan-India presence and both are competing for the leadership role in the Opposition space.

Centre pushes for Corbevax recognition in other countries

Its manufacturer Biological E pursues WHO's emergency use listing for the jab

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

The government plans to expedite the process of recognition of COVID-19 vaccine Corbevax by other countries while its manufacturer Biological E pursues WHO's emergency use listing for the jab being administered in India among the 12-14 years age group.

According to an internal document circulated to the members of the Empowered Group-5 on COVID-19 Vaccination, which will be meeting soon, some authorities abroad such as in Hong Kong have begun demanding vaccination certificates for children and only accept m-RNA based vaccines for them.

A health worker administers a dose of Corbevax vaccine at Old Seemapuri Dispensary, in New Delhi. •R.V. MOORTHY

"It is necessary to quickly initiate the process of recognition of the Corbevax vaccine and its certificate by other countries while Biological E continues to pursue WHO's EUL (emergency use listing) for it," the document mentioned. It highlighted that the recent development pertaining to the World Health Organizations' (WHO) suspension of Covaxin supply through the United Nations procurement agencies further complicates the matter and is detrimental to the acceptance of Covaxin-based vaccination certificates for children by other countries.

The issues to be discussed by the Empowered Group-5 pertains to m-RNA based booster dose requirements by countries, suspension of supply of Covaxin by the WHO, acceptance of Corbevax and Covaxin based vaccination certificates for children and international travel by Indians vaccinated with Sputnik-V.

Informed sources said the internal document circulated to members of the Empowered Group-5 comprehensively looks at all issues related to vaccines.

Active COVID-19 cases in country rise to 17,801

Country logs 3,377 new COVID-19 infections

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

India logged 3,377 new COVID-19 infections taking the country's total tally of cases to 4,30,72,176, while the active cases rose to 17,801, according to the Union Health Ministry data updated on Friday.

The death toll climbed to 5,23,753 with 60 fresh fatalities,the data updated at 8 a.m. stated.

The active cases comprise 0.04% of the total infections,while the national COVID-19 recovery rate was recorded at 98.74%, the ministry said. An increase of 821 cases has been recorded in the active COVID-19 caseload in a span of 24 hours. The daily positivity rate was recorded as 0.71% and the weekly positivity rate as 0.63%, according to the ministry.

RT-PCR test being done at La Martiniere Girls College in Lucknow. •SANDEEP SAXENA

The number of people who have recuperated from the disease surged to 4,25,30,622, while the case fatality rate was 1.22%. The cumulative doses administered in the country so far under the nationwide COVID-19 vaccination drive has exceeded 188.65 crore.

India's COVID-19 tally had crossed the 20-lakh mark on August 7, 2020, 30 lakh on August 23, 40 lakh on September 5 and 50 lakh on September 16. It went past 60 lakh on September 28, 70 lakh on October 11, crossed 80 lakh on October 29, 90 lakh on November 20 and surpassed the one-crore mark on December 19. The country crossed the grim milestone of three crore on June 23 last year.

The ministry stressed that more than 70% of the deaths occurred due to co-morbidities.

Lt. Gen. B.S. Raju is new Vice Chief of Army Staff

3-star officer being Vice Chief is rare

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Army's Director General of Military Operations, Lt. Gen. B.S. Raju, has been appointed the next Vice Chief of the Army Staff. He will take over on May 1, 2022, the Army said.

The current Vice Chief, Lt. Gen. Manoj Pande is set to take over as the next Army Chief on April 30 from incumbent Gen. Manoj Naravane.

This is a rare instance where a three star officer will be first taking over as Vice Chief before serving tenure as an Army Commander.

As a practice in the Army, Vice Chiefs have for a long time been those who had already served as Army Commander. However, Lt. Gen. Raju will be taking first as Vice Chief and is expected to proceed as Army Commander later this year, an official stated. There have been very few such instances in the past, another official said. One such was former Army Chief Gen. S. F. Rodrigues, who was Vice Chief of the Army Staff from November 1987 to April 1989. He served as Chief of the Army Staff from 1990 to 1993, and retired on June 30, 1993.

Lt. Gen. B.S. Raju

Lt. Gen. Raju did his National Defence College (NDC) at Royal College of Defence Studies, United Kingdom.

The Hindu Group bags global award

STAFF REPORTER
CHENNAI

The Hindu Group has won silver at the 12th edition of the India Chapter of the International Advertising Association (IAA)'s Olive Crown Awards. It is for the second time that The Hindu Group has won the honour.

The awards are given to individuals and corporates who promote the message of sustainability. "*The Hindu*'s communication for World Wildlife Day on March 3, 2021, won in the Press-Corporate category. The ad, conceived by Ogilvy, was part of the exclusive feature series in *The Hindu*," a release said.

Suresh Balakrishna, Chief Revenue Officer of The Hindu Group, said, "We have time and again lent our voice to imperative environmental issues as we believe sustainability is the way forward."

Dates turn expensive in Kashmir

Cross-LoC trade hit leads to sudden hike in transport costs during Ramzan

PEERZADA ASHIQ
SRINAGAR

Dates, the sweet dry fruit, a Ramzan essential for Muslims to break their fast, have seen an unprecedented rise in its price this year. Muhammad Iqbal Lone, a Srinagar-based dry fruit dealer and a cross-Line of Control (LoC) trader, told *The Hindu* that dates, which are mainly imported from the Middle Eastern countries and Afghanistan, are costlier by 50-100% for five to 10 kg boxes.

Traders across the Line of Control blame the now defunct trading routes with Pakistan Occupied Kashmir (PoK) for the uncontrolled price hike.

"A box of dates that would cost ₹500-600 is selling at ₹1200 this Ramzan. Freight charges have gone up because of several factors. We have to ferry the stocks from the Mumbai ports to Srinagar. Earlier, when the cross-LoC trade was functional, the cost of dates was very less because we would just pay the freight charges from Uri to Srinagar," Mr. Lone said.

Holy feast: A shopkeeper sells dates and other iftar items during Ramzan in Srinagar. •NISSAR AHMAD

Inflation in J&K peaked to 7.59% in March, which was significantly higher than the national average of 6.95%. Ferrying charges have gone considerably due to the war between Russia and Ukraine this year, affecting prices of all imported essentials.

The distance between Mumbai and Srinagar is over 2,000 km, and Uri, where one of the cross-LoC trade facilitation centres was set up in Kashmir, is only about 100 km away from Srinagar. Ramzan dates sales in J&K has touched ₹15-20 crore this year, according to traders.

"In the past, we could import over 50% dates from PoK, which stabilised prices and ensured that Ramzan did not prove prohibitively costly for ordinary families. We would create special orders for Ramzan, which included fruits like mangoes and kiwi," Samiullah Bhat, vice president of the Cross-LoC Traders Association, said.

Cross-LoC trade is the reason why a variety of Arab dates came to be sold in Kashmir is owed to the cross-LoC. "Dates varieties like *ajwa*, *kalmi*, *safawi*, etc. made their entry into Kashmir via the cross-LoC routes in 2010. Over the years, these items grew popular. Arab dates are preferred even at Kashmiri weddings over local, sun-dried varieties now," Mr. Lone said.

Cross-LoC trade, which started in 2008 via twin routes in the Kashmir and Jammu regions, was suspended by the Ministry of Homes Affairs in April 2019, citing it as a reason for illegal funding to militant outfits.

Leave India if you don't love Hindi: Minister

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
LUCKNOW

Those who do not love Hindi would be assumed to be foreigners, a Cabinet minister in Uttar Pradesh has said. Claiming that "Hindustan" was a *sthan* [place] for those who spoke Hindi, Sanjay Nishad also said that those who don't speak Hindi should leave the country and live elsewhere.

President of the Nirbal Indian Shoshit Hamara Aam Dal (NISHAD) party and BJP ally Sanjay Nishad said those who want to live in "Hindustan" would have to love Hindi.

"If anyone does not love Hindi, it would be assumed he or she is a foreigner or have links with foreign forces," Mr. Nishad told a television channel. He added that "regional languages should be honoured" but Hindi was about national interest.

'Heatwaves linked to man-made climate change'

Scientists say carbon emissions must be curbed

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

India is gripped in the throes of a long spell of heatwaves and there is compelling evidence that a significant portion of it is due to human-induced climate change, said scientists who were part of an online webinar on climate change organised as part of the TNQ-Janelia Climate Change Summit on Friday.

Three eminent scientists with expertise in how atmospheric, land and ocean systems were influenced by greenhouse gas emissions, drew upon their decades of research to explain how the accumulation of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere exacerbated temperatures in the oceans and the land and caused increased glacier melt, heightened sea level rise and led to changes in the biosphere.

Fiamma Straneo of the Scripps Institute of Oceanography at the University of California, San Diego drew upon her research in Greenland to demonstrate evidence of warming waters around glaciers and how it was heating even ice sheets, thereby accelerating warming.

A pedestrian in Delhi shielding herself from the scorching heat.

Though global sea-levels were rising only three millimetre a year, it would be a mistake, said Dr. Straneo, to dismiss it as a minor rise because even those increases were responsible for driving greater numbers of extreme climate events such as floods.

Her colleague at Scripps, Veerbhadran Ramanathan, referenced a simulation study jointly undertaken at the Princeton University, Columbia University and National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) that said if carbon emissions were unchecked, half the planet would be in severe drought by the century end. There was already a three-fold rise in extreme precipitation events in India, a decrease in rainfall in North India and increase in precipitation in south India, he said citing research out of India. Along with carbon dioxide emissions, pollution from biomass burning combined with this and caused 1.5 million deaths annually in India.

"India could cut its pollution by half just by providing clean cooking fuel to rural household in the Indo-Gangetic plains. Societal transformation, mitigating carbon dioxide emissions and adaption were all necessary to buffer against climate change," he added.

58-year-old Odisha MLA takes matriculation exam

SATYASUNDAR BARIK
BHUBANESWAR

For Angad Kanhar, a Biju Janata Dal (BJD) MLA, age is just a number. The 58-year-old legislator, who could not appear for his matriculation examination due to personal difficulties when he was in school, sat for the examination at Phulbani in Odisha's Kandhamal district on Friday.

As 5.71 lakh students in Odisha appeared for the annual matriculation examination physically for the first time after two COVID-19 pandemic years, Mr. Kanhar decided not to dally any longer.

The Phulbani MLA did not enter the examination hall alone. He was in the company of Sudarshan Kanhar, his batchmate from 1978, and the Sarpanch of the Luising gram panchayat in Kandhamal.

"I am not embarrassed to appear for the Class X examination, being an MLA who has already crossed the age for pursuing an academic career. Rather, my appearance in school examination will send across a message that age should not be a hindrance for securing an academic degree," Mr. Kanhar, who belongs to the Kondh tribe, said.

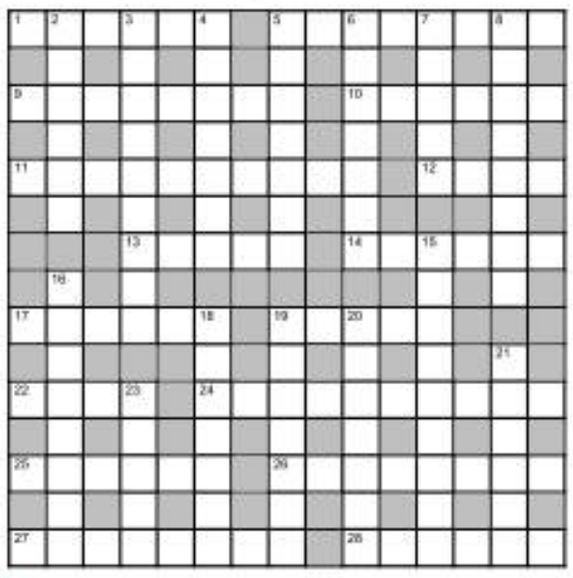
Previously, Ramesh Majhi, currently Nabarangpur MP, had appeared in the Class 12 examination while a Minister in the Naveen Patnaik government.

TH CROSSWORD + 13544

(set by Karaoke)

Display keystrokes of genius. Type your answers in our online grids. @ *https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn*

SCAN TO PLAY



ACROSS

1 Repeatedly law is broken in affirmative votes (6)
5 Rigid sailor's initial opposition to stolen goods reportedly (8)
9 Intolerably sweatier, so to say (2,2,4)
10 Treat with love – stop terror, ignore fundamentalists at first (6)
11 Annulment of first rate soldiers' protection rejected (10)
12 Cut plant, leave the top (4)
13 One country's code (5)
14 Periodical goes online with an attractive feature (6)
17 He employs lawyer to make up a story on opponents essentially within the boundaries of court (6)
19 Clumsy workout at present (5)
22 Legal action please (4)
24 Current actor only possibly gets hero-worship (10)
25 Animal returning as soon as possible, no good! (6)
26 What a hen will do? Drop a bomb? (3,2,3)
27 Bonds be taken out – they bridge the gap (8)
28 Soldiers leave sum and substance (6)

DOWN

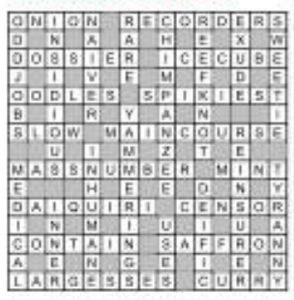
2 Take notice fifty = X (6)
3 Permit gold to speculate without base (9)
4 He serves primarily snacks, drinks with water at sea (7)
5 Injured chimaera left hospital for New World (7)
6 It is part of humans to hide master numbers (7)
7 Duck to accept first love for daughter in retreat (5)
8 Shoots model for bishop's blocks of money (8)
15 Backtrack and check on idiot's annoying expression (9)
16 A gelusil treatment or bad treatment? (3-5)
18 It may start a train of actions or spit fire (7)
19 Adult swimming pools contain large butterflies (7)
20 Follower is yet tipsy after pub abruptly rejected (7)
21 It is a horrifying situation when box contains central part of torso (6)
23 Siemens comes in with perfect exactness? Cheers! (5)

SUDOKU

	7			3				6
	3	1	4					
4	9				6			
8	5					3		
7								8
		6					9	1
			3				4	7
					7	9	1	
1				8			2	

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★☆☆

Solution to puzzle 13543



Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

9	7	5	4	1	3	6	8	2
6	4	8	2	5	7	3	9	1
2	1	3	6	8	9	5	4	7
8	2	9	1	4	5	7	3	6
7	3	6	8	9	2	4	1	5
4	5	1	7	3	6	9	2	8
5	8	4	3	6	1	2	7	9
3	6	2	9	7	8	1	5	4
1	9	7	5	2	4	8	6	3

FAITH

Essence of sastras

Sastras state that every birth is obtained by one's past karma. Of all births, human birth is considered a great boon since human beings are privileged to be endowed with intellect and mind by which it is possible to understand their status and purpose of life. There is much to learn during one's brief lifetime. It is not possible to know everything and there will be many obstacles to our learning.

In a discourse, Asuri Sri Madhavachariar drew attention to Vedanta Desika's philosophical treatises wherein the acharya has analysed the entire sastra literature in detail and has extracted the most useful learning for the benefit of humanity. All that is essential for a jiva to strive for moksha and thereby get relieved from the cycle of birth is explained in clear terms. Sastras show that every jiva belongs to the Supreme Lord. The Lord along with Sri is the sole master and ruler of all beings, humans, celestials, and all else, as Nammazhwar has put it in the very first Tiruvaimozhi. His abode is Vaikunta where the Nityasuris are ever engaged in His service. The jiva too is eligible to enjoy this state, but owing to his past karma is unaware of his original swaroopa and is caught in samsara. The Lord is the sole cure for this pitiable plight and He alone is the boat to guide the jiva across the endless stream of samsara.

Krishna explains that it is a long quest spanning many births. It is likely that perhaps at the end of many births, it may be that one fortunate jiva may gain the jnana that Vasudeva is the Highest Truth and also the awareness of his relationship with the Lord as that of a son, disciple and a servant. With the Lord's grace, the jiva then is led to seek salvation through the paths of devotion and surrender and also to attain it.

Russia 'strikes' Kyiv during UN chief's visit

Zelensky says the attack was aimed at 'humiliating' the agency; journalist killed as missile hits a house

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
KYIV

Russia confirmed on Friday it carried out an air strike on Kyiv during a visit by the UN chief, the first such attack on the Ukrainian capital in nearly two weeks and one that killed a journalist.

Vera Gyrych, a journalist for the U.S.-funded Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty, was killed when a Russian missile slammed into the house where she lived in Kyiv, the media group said.

Russia's Defence Ministry said it had deployed "high-precision, long-range air-based weapons" that it added "have destroyed the production buildings of the Artyom missile and space enterprise in Kyiv".

Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelensky said the strikes, which immediately followed his talks with Antonio Guterres, were an attempt by Russia "to humiliate the UN and everything that the organisation represents".

Emergency servicemen at work at the site in Kyiv where fires were triggered by an explosion on Thursday. • AP

Earlier that day, Mr. Guterres had toured Bucha and other suburbs of Kyiv where Moscow is alleged to have committed war crimes. Russia denies killing civilians.

Germany slammed the "inhumane" attack that showed Russian President Vladimir Putin has "no respect whatsoever for international law".

In a residential part of Kyiv, AFP correspondents saw one building in flames and black smoke pouring into the air after the Russian strikes.

"I heard the sound of two rockets and two explosions. It was a sound similar to a flying plane, and then two explosions with an interval of three to four seconds," Oleksandr Stroganov, 34, said.

Mayor Vitali Klitschko said there had been "two hits in the Shevchenkovsky district", with one hitting "the lower floors of a residential building".

"It is a war zone, but it is shocking that it happened close to us," said Saviano Abreu, spokesman for the UN's humanitarian office who was travelling with Mr. Guterres, adding that the delegation was safe.

Mr. Guterres, who arrived in Kyiv after talks in Moscow with Putin, had called war "evil" after visiting Bucha and demanded the Kremlin cooperate with an International Criminal Court investigation into the accusations.

Ukrainian prosecutors said they have pinpointed more than 8,000 alleged war crime cases and have opened investigations into 10 Russian soldiers for suspected atrocities in Bucha, where dozens of bodies in civilian clothes were found following Moscow's retreat.

Those cases involve "killing civilians, bombing of civilian infrastructure, torture" and "sexual crimes" reported during Russia's occupation of various parts of Ukraine, Prosecutor General Iryna Venediktova told a German broadcaster.

Meanwhile, Ukrainian authorities said they planned to evacuate civilians on Friday from the besieged Azovstal steel plant, the last holdout in Mariupol where hundreds of people are sheltering with Ukrainian troops.

In an early morning statement on Telegram, defenders of the factory said shelling had struck a field hospital inside the plant, causing it to collapse.

"Among the already wounded servicemen are dead, newly wounded and injured," the statement said.

With the war claiming thousands of lives, Kyiv has admitted Russian forces have captured a string of villages in the Donbas region.

But Ukrainian forces, which have been armed by Western allies, also reported small victories elsewhere. In Kharkiv, Ukrainian forces said they recaptured a key village, Ruska Lozova, from the Russians.

At least 10 killed in powerful explosion at Kabul mosque

Hundreds of worshippers were there for Ramzan prayers

ASSOCIATED PRESS
KABUL

A powerful explosion ripped through a mosque in the Afghan capital of Kabul on Friday, killing at least 10 people and wounding 20, a Taliban spokesman said.

Hundreds of worshippers had gathered for prayers on the last Friday of the Muslim holy month of Ramzan and the Khalifa Aga Gul Jan Mosque was packed, said local residents, fearing the casualty toll could rise further.

The Interior Ministry spokesman, Mohammad Nafi Takor, could not provide more details and Taliban security men cordoned off the area. The source of the explosion was not immediately known and no one has claimed responsibility for the blast.

The explosion was so loud that the neighborhood of the mosque shook from the blast, the residents said, speaking on condition of anonymity, fearing for their own safety.

Ambulances raced to the site, driving up to the end of a narrow street in an eastern neighborhood of Kabul to reach the mosque, which belongs to Afghanistan's majority Sunni Muslims.

Shias targeted

The explosion was the latest in a series of such blasts amid relentless attacks across the country. Similar attacks on mosques have recently targeted the country's minority Shia Muslims and were claimed by the Islamic State group's regional affiliate, known as Islamic State in Khorasan Province or IS-K.

IS has stepped up its attacks across Afghanistan to become the primary enemy of the Taliban since their takeover of the country last August.

Kabul's Italian-run EMERGENCY hospital, which treats only the war-wounded, tweeted that its staff reported the facility has admitted at least "20 wounded people".

At least nine people were killed and 13 wounded in bombings on Thursday in Mazar-e-Sharif. IS claimed responsibility for the attacks and, in a statement, said 30 Shias were killed or wounded in two attacks.

Last week, 33 Shia worshippers were killed in Mazar-e-Sharif, when a bomb struck their mosque and an adjacent religious school. IS has claimed responsibility for that attack.

While criticism of the Taliban's hardline edicts have drawn widespread criticism, most international observers have noted increased security throughout the country since their sweep to power last August.

ELSEWHERE

CDC reports first human case of H5 bird flu in U.S.

WASHINGTON

The first known human case of H5 bird flu in the U.S. has appeared in a person in Colorado, the CDC said on Thursday. The person tested positive for avian influenza A(H5) virus and was involved in the culling of poultry presumed to have had H5N1 bird flu, the CDC said. REUTERS

IS terrorist sentenced to life for killing hostages

WASHINGTON

Alexanda Kotey, part of the Islamic State cell known as the "Beatles", was sentenced to life in jail by a U.S. court on Friday. Kotey, a former British national, pleaded guilty in September, admitting responsibility for the deaths of four American hostages in Syria. AFP

Erdogan meets Saudi leaders in first visit since Khashoggi killing

Both sides seek expansion of bilateral relations in all fields

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
RIYADH

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has met with Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince to "develop" relations in his first visit since the 2018 killing of journalist Jamal Khashoggi drove a wedge between the Sunni powers.

Saudi state news agency SPA on Thursday published images of the Turkish leader embracing Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, the de facto ruler who U.S. intelligence officials determined approved the plot against Khashoggi – something Riyadh denies.

The pair "reviewed the Saudi-Turkish relations and ways to develop them in all fields," SPA reported. Mr. Erdogan then visited the Muslim holy city of Mecca to perform an umrah pilgrimage.

Recep Tayyip Erdogan meets Mohammed bin Salman in Jeddah. • REUTERS

The trip came as Turkey, facing an economic crisis fuelled by the collapse of its currency and soaring inflation, tries to draw financial support from Gulf countries.

Prior to flying from Istanbul to Saudi's second city Jeddah, where some roads were lined with Turkish and Saudi flags, Mr. Erdogan said he hoped "to launch a new era" in bilateral ties. "We believe enhancing cooperation in areas, including defence and finance is in our mutual interest," Mr. Erdogan said.

Saudi agents killed and dismembered Khashoggi, an insider turned critic, in the kingdom's Istanbul Consulate in October 2018. His remains have never been found. The gruesome act risked isolating Saudi Arabia, and especially Prince Mohammed, while escalating Riyadh's regional rivalry with Ankara.

Earlier this month, an Istanbul court halted the trial in absentia of 26 Saudi suspects linked to Khashoggi's death, transferring the case to Riyadh.

Dozens injured in clashes at al-Aqsa

Israeli police said they prevented 'rioters' from hurling stones at the Western Wall

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
JERUSALEM

Fresh clashes between Palestinians and Israeli police at Jerusalem's al-Aqsa mosque compound wounded dozens of people on Friday, following weeks of violence at the flashpoint religious site.

The Palestinian Red Crescent, which keeps track of toll, said no one was seriously injured, but 22 people were taken to hospital.

Israeli police released footage that showed young men on the compound hurling stones and fireworks in Friday's early hours. Officers entered the site at dawn.

A police statement said they went in to contain "rioters and lawbreakers" some of whom were trying to throw stones down towards the Western Wall, the sacred Jewish site below al-Aqsa.

Police said officers used "riot dispersal means" to contain the unrest and that two people had been arrested, one for throwing stones and the other one for "inciting the mob".

An AFP journalist said Israeli police fired rubber bullets while a witness said they also used tear gas.

A uneasy calm had been restored at the compound following the unrest that surrounded morning prayers, but tensions remained high.

In the early afternoon, a crowd of Muslim worshippers gathered at al-Aqsa. Some people waved Palestinian flags and the colours of the Gaza Strip-based Hamas militant group.

Over the past two weeks, nearly 300 Palestinians have been hurt in clashes at al-Aqsa, Islam's third-holiest site which is also the most holy site for Jews, who call it the Temple Mount.

Protesters wave Palestinian and Islamic flags at the al-Aqsa mosque site. • AFP

SOUTHERN RAILWAY

Construction Organisation
Ernakulam Junction
TENDER NOTICE No. 04/CE/CN/ERS/2022 (OT)
Dated: 22.04.2022

Name of the Work : Construction of super structure for ROBs in lieu of existing LC Nos. **230**, 14 & 2; Tender Value : ₹ **6,09,32,897.00**; Completion Period : **12 Months**; Date of Closing : **16.05.2022 @ 15.00 hrs.**

Complete details & tender document will be available at https://www.ireps.gov.in

Chief Engineer / Construction / Ernakulam

Follow us on twitter.com/GMSRailway

e-mail-eerwss_kpt@rediffmail.com
Ph. No.06852-250281(Off) ; Ph.No. 06852-250680 (Res); Fax. No. 06852-251098

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, RWSS DIVISION, KORAPUT

Phone : 06852-250281; e-mail-eerwsskpt@rediffmail.com : No.1789 2022-23 Dt.28.04.2022

2nd CORRIGENDUM TO TENDER CALL NOTICE NO.01/SE/ RWSS / KPT /2022-23/ 08.04.2022

As per instruction Of the Engineer-in-Chief RWS&S (O), Bhubaneswar vide his lr. No. 3248 dt. 25.04.2022 the clause No. **4.4 (C)** under section 01 (Instruction to bidders ITB) of the **STANDARD BID DOCUMENT (SBD)** of the e-Procurement Notice no. **01/SE/RWSS/KPT/2022-23/08.04.2022.** is hereby deleted.

All other terms and conditions remained unaltered

Q-140 **Superintending Engineer, RWS&S Division, Koraput.**

OIPR-25034/11/0003/2223

TAMIL NADU GENERATION AND DISTRIBUTION CORPORATION LTD.
E-TENDER NOTICE
TANGEDCO / MEDIUM TERM / 3 YEARS (Coal Tolling)

TANGEDCO invites E-Tender for procurement of 500 MW RTC Power for a period of 3 years by floating medium term tender under case-4 (Coal Tolling) notified by the Ministry of Power vide dated 20.02.2017, through e-Bidding portal (DEEP) only. The link for the e-Bidding portal is **www.matcecommerce.com** and is also available on the website of Ministry of Power (**www.powermin.nic.in**) and PFC Consulting Ltd. (**www.pfcclindia.com**). Specification is available in TANGEDCO website and MSTC DEEP e-Bidding portal.

CHIEF ENGINEER / PPP, TANGEDCO

DIPR/2074/Tender/2022

TIRUMALA TIRUPATI DEVASTHANAMS : TIRUPATI
TIRUPATI DISTRICT, A.P.
Office of the Chief Engineer e-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE
Ad.No.07/D3/CE/TTD/2022-23 29/04/2022

e-tenders invited on e-procurement for **One (01) work** of TTD Engineering Department.

Sl. No.	NIT NO.	Name of the work	Estimate Amount Rs. in Lakhs & Time for completion	Schedule Download Start Date	Download End Date & Last Date for Bid Submission
1	2	3	4	5	6
Superintending Engineer-I					
	11/SE-I/TTD/2022-23	**Proposed Consbruction of new Paediatric super speciality hospital in the premises of SVIMS, Tirupati.**	**20800.00 18 Months**	**30-04-2022 5.00 p.m.**	**18-05-2022 1.00 p.m. & 3.00 p.m.**

NOTE: For full details log on to the website **https://tender.apeprocurement.gov.in** or **http://www.apeprocurement.gov.in/**

Roc.No.PR4/13941/Adv.No.34/PRO/2022, Dated:29-04-2022 **EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

REBUILD KERALA INITIATIVE (RKI)
Planning & Economic Affairs (RKI) Department, Government of Kerala
1A, CALSAR Heather Tower, Near Government Secretariat, Thiruvananthapuram-695001.

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EoI)/PRE-QUALIFICATION
No. RKI 1/30/2021-PLGEA Dated 25/04/2022

The KfW has supported the State of Kerala through Climate Loan Kerala Accompanying Measure (AM) Grants. The RKI invites EoI for the following services under the Grants.

Sl. No.	Tender Reference No.	Tender Type	Consulting Services for
1.	BMZ202070183/ KFW508055	International Competitive Bidding	Institutional Governance Reform and Business Planning for Kerala Water Authority (KWA)
2.	BMZ202070183/ KFW508086	National Competitive Bidding	Developing State Disaster Risk Financing Strategy for Kerala

Details can be accessed at e-procurement portal: **https://etenders.kerala.gov.in**

Last date for submission of bids: 28/05/2022, 6:00 PM IST.

For general information, please contact: Ph.0471-2332744/2333744, email: rkisecretariat@gmail.com, rkisecretariat@kerala.gov.in

Sd/-Chief Executive Officer, RKI

OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL & CONTROLLER, DR. S.N. MEDICAL COLLEGE & ASSOCIATED GROUP OF HOSPITALS, JODHPUR
Shastri Nagar, Residency Road, Jodhpur (Raj). 342001 Ph-0291-2434374
E-mail:principal.drsnmc.jod@rajasthan.gov.in, prmedclg-jod-rj@nic.in

No. F.6( )Store/SNMC/JU/2022-23/249-53 Dated: 25.04.22

NOTICE INVITING BID No.2/2022-23

Bids for **Supply and installation of Cardiac Cath Lab & OCT Machine with accessories & Site modification work and 2D High End Echo Machine For TTE & TEE**, for use in Dr. S.N. Medical College and Attached Hospitals, Jodhpur are invited from interested bidders up to 05:00 PM 19.05.2022 Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in and also be seen at http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in of the state procurement portal and https://education.rajasthan.gov.in/dsmcjodhpur departmental website.

UBN Number :-

SMC2223GLOB00012, SMC2223GSOB00013

(Dr. S.S. Rathore)
Principal & Controller

DIPR/C/6031

Office of Additional Chief Engineer
Public Health Engineering Department, Region-I, Jaipur
Sahakar Marg, Jyoti Nagar, Jaipur-302005
Ph.: 0141-2740170, Mail ID:- ace1.jpr.phed@rajasthan.gov.in

No.(): F./ACE/PHED/Ar. Jhunjhunu/NIT-207-209/2021-22/1222-1241
Date:- 25.04.2022

CORRRIGENDUM No. 2 OF NIT No. 207-209/2021-22

Name of Work: "Rate contract for construction & commissioning of 200 mm dia tube wells with Submersible pump sets etc. complete work in all types of strata including defect liability period of 02 years under jurisdiction of PHED, Division Khetri, City Division Jhunjhunu & District Division Jhunjhunu."

Particular/Event	As per published Bid Document/Corrigendum 1	As amended/ corrected
Last date for submission of tender	25.04.2022 (18.00 PM)	09.05.2022 (18.00 PM)
Due date for opening	26.04.2022 (11.00 PM)	10.05.2022 (11.00 PM)

(Arun Srivastava)
Additional Chief Engineer
PHED, Region-I, Jaipur

DIPR/C/6033

KARNATAKA STATE POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD
No.49, "Parisara Bhavana", 1st to 5th Floor, Church Street, Bengaluru - 560 001. Karnataka State. INDIA.
Ph: 25581383, 25589112, 25589113 Fax: 080-25586321
E-mail : ho@kspcb.gov.in Website : https://kspcb.karnataka.gov.in

NO: PCB/85/SEO/MINES/EPH/2022-23/615 Date: 28/04/2022

ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC HEARING NOTIFICATION

M/s. Hutti Gold Mines Co. Ltd., has proposed to undertake Quarrying of Ordinary Sand in Madlapura Sand Block (Block No. 02) of capacity 93,968TPA over an area 25.00 Acres in Tungabhadra River bed adjacent to Sy No. 199, 188 & 64 of Madlapura Village, ManviTaluk, Raichur District. The project has to obtain Environmental Clearance from SEIAA, Government of Karnataka, as per the EIA Notification dated 14.09.2006 (as amended on 01.12.2009), and is required to go through Environmental Public Hearing. As per the SEIAA, Government of Karnataka, Terms of Reference letter (ToR) No. SEIAA 348 MIN 2021 dated: 13.10.2021 and request of the project proponent letter received at Board office dated 07.01.2022, the Environmental Public Hearing is being conducted by the Board.

The details of the project are as follows:

1. Name of the Company & Address: Dr. S N Solankar, I/c Manager (Exploration), M/s Hutti Gold Mines Co. Ltd., Hutti, Raichur, Karnataka -584115.

2. Proposed Location of Quarry: Sy No. 199, 188 & 64 of Madlapura Village, Manvi Taluk, Raichur District

3. Details of proposed activity: Quarrying of Ordinary Sand of capacity 93,968TPA.

4. Pollution Control Measures: Chemical Toilet will be provided for the disposal of domestic waste water generated from quarry office. Rainwater collected during the rainy season in the mine will be used for dust suppression and plantation. Regular sprinkling of water on haul and access roads. Regular maintenance of all equipment to minimize particulate matter and gaseous emissions from diesel engines. Plantation of thick greenbelt is provided around lease area boundary.

5. Date, time and venue of environmental public hearing: **31.05.2022 (Tuesday) at 11:00 AM at Chikalaparvi (Near Sri. Guru VirupaksheshwaraKalyanaMantapa)**

6. Places of availability of project documents as per EIA Notification, which is kept open to public are: (a) Office of the Deputy Commissioner, Raichur District, Raichur. (b) Chief Executive Officer, Zilla Panchayat, Raichur. (c) District Industries Centre, Raichur. (d) Taluk Panchayath, Manvi. (e) Village Panchayath Office, Madlapura. (f) Regional Office, Karnataka State Pollution Control Board, Raichur. (g) SEIAA, Karnataka (Ecology and Environment), Department of Forest, Ecology and Environment, Government of Karnataka, Room No. 706, 7th Floor, 4th Gate, MS Building, Bengaluru – 560 001. h) **HELP DESK**, Karnataka State Pollution Control Board, Ground Floor, No.49, ParisaraBhavan, Church Street, Bengaluru – 560 001.

NOTE: Suggestions, views, comments and objections of interested bonafide residents, environmental groups and others located at project site and likely to be affected by the proposed project are invited within 30 days from the date of publication of this Notification. They can also make oral/written/E-Mail suggestions to the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board/Chairman, Environmental Public Hearing Committee (Deputy Commissioner, Raichur District, Raichur). Interested public can participate in the Public Hearing at the above place. **For details please visit our Website: kspcb.karnataka.gov.in.**

Sd/-
Member Secretary

"AVOID USE OF PLASTICS - BE 'ECO' FRIENDLY"

INDIAN INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE
Bangalore - 560012

Corrigendum to Advertisement for the post of Assistant Project Engineer (Civil) and Site Engineer (Civil), Challakere dated 09.04.2022

It is hereby notified that the last date for submission of application for the post of **Assistant Project Engineer (Civil) and Site Engineer (Civil), Challakere** is hereby **extended till 10.05.2022.** The eligibility criteria and other terms and conditions remains the same.

Date: 29.04.2022 **Sd/-, REGISTRAR**

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given to the public that we are investigating the right, title, interest, benefits, entitlements of whatsoever nature of the owners of the Survey Numbers, as mentioned hereinbelow, all are situated at Lingadeeragollahalli Village, Kundana Hobli, Devanahalli Taluk, Bangalore Rural District, which is more particularly described in the Schedule hereunder written and hereinafter called **"Schedule Property"**.

ALL persons including an individual, a Hindu Undivided Family, a company, banks, financial institution(s), non- banking financial institution(s), a firm, an association of persons or a body of individuals whether incorporated or not, lenders and/or creditors having any objection, claim, right, title and/or interest in respect of Schedule Property or any part or portion thereof by way of sale, memorandum of understanding, exchange, mortgage, pledge, charge, gift, trust, inheritance, succession, possession, lease, tenancy, maintenance easement, license, bequeath, share, assignment, lien, attachment, development rights, right of way, lis pendens, reservation, agreement, FSI consumption, development rights, or any liability or commitment or otherwise or demand of any nature whatsoever are hereby requested to inform the same in writing, supported with the original documents, to the undersigned having their office at 6/12, Gurappa Avenue, Primrose Road Bengaluru 560 025 **within a period of 07 (Seven) days** from the date of publication of this notice, failing which, the claim or claims, if any, of such person or persons shall be considered to have been waived and/or abandoned.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

Item No. 01: All that piece and parcel of **agricultural land bearing Sy No. 62/1, measuring 15 Guntas, situated at Lingadeeragollahalli Village, Kundana Hobli, Devanahalli Taluk, Bangalore Rural District** and bounded by;
EAST : Sy No. 62/4, **WEST :** Sulikunte Boundary
NORTH : Sy No. 63, **SOUTH :** Sy No. 61

Item No. 02: All that piece and parcel of **agricultural land bearing Sy No. 62/4, measuring 15 Guntas, situated at Lingadeeragollahalli Village, Kundana Hobli, Devanahalli Taluk, Bangalore Rural District** and bounded by;
EAST : Sy No. 62/5, **WEST :** Sy No. 62/1
NORTH : Sy No. 63, **SOUTH :** Sy No. 61

Item No. 03 : All that piece and parcel of **agricultural land bearing Sy No. 62/5, measuring 15 Guntas, situated at Lingadeeragollahalli Village, Kundana Hobli, Devanahalli Taluk, Bangalore Rural District** and bounded by;
EAST : Sy No. 62/6, **WEST :** Sy No. 62/4
NORTH : Sy No. 63, **SOUTH :** Sy No. 61

Item No. 04: All that piece and parcel of **agricultural land bearing Sy No. 62/6, measuring 15 Guntas, situated at Lingadeeragollahalli Village, Kundana Hobli, Devanahalli Taluk, Bangalore Rural District** and bounded by;
EAST : Sy No. 62/2, **WEST :** Sy No. 62/5,
NORTH : Sy No. 63, **SOUTH :** Sy No. 61

Item No. 05: All that piece and parcel of **agricultural land bearing Sy No. 63/1, measuring 26 Guntas, excluding 2 Guntas of kharab, situated at Lingadeeragollahalli Village, Kundana Hobli, Devanahalli Taluk, Bangalore Rural District** and bounded by;
EAST : Sy No. 63/3, **WEST :** Sulikunte Boundary
NORTH : Road and Sy No. 63/2, **SOUTH :** Sy No. 62

Item No. 06: All that piece and parcel of **agricultural land bearing Sy No. 63/3, measuring 26 Guntas, situated at Lingadeeragollahalli Village, Kundana Hobli, Devanahalli Taluk, Bangalore Rural District** and bounded by;
EAST : Sy No. 63/4, **WEST :** Sy No. 63/3
NORTH : Road, **SOUTH :** Sy No. 62/3

Item No. 07: All that piece and parcel of **agricultural land bearing Sy No. 63/4, measuring 26 Guntas, situated at Lingadeeragollahalli Village, Kundana Hobli, Devanahalli Taluk, Bangalore Rural District** and bounded by;
EAST : Sy No. 63/5, **WEST :** Sy No. 63/3
NORTH : Road, **SOUTH :** Sy No. 62/4

Item No. 08: All that piece and parcel of **agricultural land bearing Sy No. 63/5, measuring 27 Guntas, situated at Lingadeeragollahalli Village, Kundana Hobli, Devanahalli Taluk, Bangalore Rural District** and bounded by;
EAST : Sy No. 63/6, **WEST :** Sy No. 63/4
NORTH : Road, **SOUTH :** Sy No. 62/5

Item No. 09: All that piece and parcel of **agricultural land bearing Sy No. 63/6, measuring 02 Acres 26 Guntas, excluding 03 Guntas of Kharab, situated at Lingadeeragollahalli Village, Kundana Hobli, Devanahalli Taluk, Bangalore Rural District** and bounded by;
EAST : Lingadeeragollahalli Greama, **WEST :** Sy No. 63/5
NORTH : Road, **SOUTH :** Sy No. 62/6

Sd/-
Mr. S T Prashantha Kumar, Partner,
Fox Mandal & Associates, Solicitors & Advocates,
FM House, 6/12, Primrose Road, Bangalore – 560025, Karnataka, India
Phone: +91 80 2558 5911
Dated:30.4.2022 Bangalore

MARKET WATCH

	29-04-2022	% CHANGE
Sensex	57,061	-0.80
US Dollar	76.50	0.14
Gold	51,627	1.20
Brent oil	108.78	1.98

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Ports	856.40	-30.70
Apollo Hosp	4454.35	-83.50
Asian Paints	3237.20	-10.50
Axis Bank	728.60	-51.20
Bajaj Auto	3729.55	-104.85
Bajaj Finserv	14811.15	-100.70
Bajaj Finance	6671.80	-55.85
Bharti Airtel	739.00	-8.35
BPCL	362.60	-6.75
Britannia Ind	3279.25	-78.65
Cipla	981.20	0.00
Coal India	182.85	-7.40
Divis Lab	4505.40	-59.20
Dr Reddys Lab	4131.95	9.80
Eicher Motors	2630.35	-49.60
Grasim Ind	1692.30	-19.60
HCL Tech	1079.25	-13.25
HDFC	2229.70	5.70
HDFC Bank	1384.60	13.25
HDFC Life	582.40	11.00
Hero MotoCorp	2506.65	-10.65
Hindalco	482.65	-5.95
Hind Unilever	2234.85	-7.00
ICICI Bank	743.30	-3.85
Indusind Bank	978.55	-9.80
Infosys	1567.55	-15.05
ITC	259.55	-1.55
JSW Steel	727.15	-1.95
Kotak Bank	1790.75	25.10
L&T	1694.35	-24.90
M&M	922.10	-0.80
Maruti Suzuki	7717.80	-170.35
Nestle India Ltd.	18330.30	-97.40
NTPC	156.20	-3.50
ONGC	160.45	-4.35
PowerGrid Corp	227.75	-7.85
Reliance Ind	2790.25	-29.60
SBI Life	1105.50	-11.35
State Bank	496.30	-11.20
Shree Cement	25921.50	48.90
Sun Pharma	928.65	7.65
Tata Consumer Products Ltd	823.75	12.10
Tata Motors	437.60	1.55
Tata Steel	1271.05	10.20
TCS	3546.70	-37.60
Tech Mahindra	1259.00	-12.30
Titan	2458.20	-55.00
UltraTech Cement	6630.25	13.30
UPL	822.90	-1.40
Wipro	508.80	-13.75

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on April 29

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	76.23	76.55
Euro	80.53	80.87
British Pound	95.81	96.22
Japanese Yen (100)	58.66	58.91
Chinese Yuan	11.57	11.63
Swiss Franc	78.50	78.84
Singapore Dollar	55.24	55.49
Canadian Dollar	59.82	60.10
Malaysian Ringgit	17.50	17.59
Australian Dollar	54.62	54.85

Source:Indian Bank

'Economy may take till FY35 to overcome COVID-19 losses'

Feasible range of medium-term GDP growth works out to 6.5-8.5%': RBI report

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

The Indian economy may take more than a decade to overcome the losses caused by the outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic, according to Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) Report on Currency and Finance (RCF).

"The pandemic is a watershed moment and the structural changes catalysed by the pandemic can potentially alter the growth trajectory in the medium term," the authors observed.

"The pre-COVID trend growth rate works out to 6.6% and excluding the slowdown years it works out to 7.1%. Taking actual growth rate of (-) 6.6% for 2020-21, 8.9% for 2021-22 and assuming growth rate of 7.2% for 2022-23 and 7.5% beyond that, India is expected to overcome COVID-19 losses in 2034-35," they said in a chapter titled 'Scars of the pandemic'. "The output loss for individual years have been worked out at ₹19.1 lakh crore, ₹17.1 lakh crore and ₹16.4 lakh crore for 2020-21, 2021-22 and 2022-23, respectively," they added. The theme of the report for FY22 is 'Revive and Reconstruct'.

Conditions apply: The authors said price stability was a precondition for strong and sustainable growth. •REUTERS

"The report reflects the views of the contributors and not of the Reserve Bank," the RBI said.

'Price stability is key'

As per the RCF, a feasible range of medium-term steady GDP growth in India works out to 6.5%-8.5%, consistent with the blueprint of reforms and "timely rebalancing of monetary and fiscal policies will likely be the first step in this journey.

The authors also said price stability was a necessary precondition for strong and sustainable growth.

Maruti Q4 net jumps 51% to ₹1,875.8 cr. as vehicle prices rise

Chairman flags trend of small-car segment shrinking

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Maruti Suzuki India posted a 51% jump in consolidated net profit to ₹1,875.8 crore for the January-March 2022 quarter, aided by higher vehicle prices and lower sales promotion costs.

The company, which has about three lakh customer orders pending, doesn't expect to "completely liquidate" the waiting list this year as well, owing to the shortage of chips.

Speaking to reporters at a virtual press conference, chairman R.C. Bhargava also hinted at a change in product strategy to move towards higher-end passenger vehicles as demand for entry-level vehicles - its bread and butter – was shrinking due to affordability issues.

"The worrying part of the market has been that over the past three years, the market at the lower end... for people who use either two-wheelers or smaller hatchback... that market has been shrinking considerably... Small cars used to be our bread and butter [but] there's no butter in small cars any more," he said.

Noting that the hatchback segment had declined from 15.5 lakh units in FY19 to 11.5 lakh units in FY22, he said there seemed to be no likelihood of the trend reversing in the near future. "Because of regulatory changes, taxes of State governments and increase in prices of commodities, the prices at the lower end of the market have increased... by such a figure that a lot of customers have dropped out of the market."

Revenue from operations stood at ₹26,749.2 crore (₹24,034.5 crore) in the latest quarter.

Wipro Q4 net rises 4% on continued demand

Order pipeline at its highest, says MD

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Tech services firm Wipro said consolidated net profit grew 4% to ₹3,092.5 crore for the quarter ended March, compared with a year earlier. Total revenue rose 28% to ₹20,860 crore from a year earlier. IT services revenue stood at $2.72 billion, an increase of 3.1% q-on-q and 26.4% y-on-y.

For FY22, Wipro's net profit climbed 12.6% to ₹12,232.9 crore, while revenue jumped 28% to ₹79,747.5 crore.

""Our order bookings grew 30% y-on-y, and we are finishing off the year with the highest ever pipeline," said CEO and MD Thierry Delaporte.

Thierry Delaporte

For the first quarter of FY23, the firm said it expected IT services revenue to be in the range of $2,748 million to $2,803 million, reflecting growth of 1-3%.

Wipro added a net of 45,000 employees in FY22, of whom 19,000 were freshers. The firm said it would hire 38,000 freshers in FY23. However, attrition remained high at 23.8% in Q4.

(With PTI inputs)

Govt. approves Pawan Hans sale at ₹414-crore valuation

Deal will net ₹211.14 cr. for Centre; ONGC to get ₹202.86 cr.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The government on Friday approved the sale of its stake in Pawan Hans Ltd. along with transfer of management control to an entity called Star9 Mobility Pvt. Ltd. at a price of ₹211.14 crore, pegging the firm's total value at ₹414 crore.

The Centre had attempted the sale of Pawan Hans thrice earlier, after the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs approved the sale of its 51% stake in the firm in late 2016. The process for the present transaction was kicked off in December 2020 when expressions of interest were invited from bidders.

The winning bidder, Star9 Mobility, is a consortium of Big Charter Private Ltd., Maharaja Aviation Private Ltd. and Almas Global Opportunity Fund SPC, the Finance Ministry said.

"It is expected that the strategic buyer will revitalise the company by replacing the ageing fleet through infusion of fresh capital and improve the performance of the company," the Ministry said in a statement.

A joint venture between the Centre and ONGC, which owns 49%, Pawan Hans offers helicopter and aero mobility services. It incurred losses for three successive years from 2018-19 to 2020-21. Pawan Hans has a fleet of 42 helicopters, 41 of which are owned by the firm and have an average age exceeding 20 years.

ONGC had earlier decided to offer its entire holding to the successful bidder in the strategic disinvestment transaction, on the same terms and price. This would translate into a ₹202.86 crore receipt for the oil major.

'Nod to proposals from 5 chipmakers in 6-8 months'

'Growing the industry is a marathon'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

The Centre may give nod to investment proposals of five electronic chip manufacturers in six to eight months, Union Minister for Electronics and Communication and Railways Ashwini Vaishnaw said here on Friday.

Minister of State for Electronics and IT Rajeev Chandrasekhar said that the Indian Semiconductor Mission was currently evaluating the process and the approvals would come after due diligence.

The Centre has already received proposals from five firms for setting up electronic chip and display manufacturing units at a total investment of ₹1.53 lakh crore. Speaking at the inaugural session of Semicon India-2022 earlier in the day, Mr. Vaishnaw said, "Developing a new industry, especially the semiconductor industry, is not a sprint but a marathon and the government is committed to growing the sector with patience."

Ashwini Vaishnaw at Semicon India 2022 on Friday. •K. MURALI KUMAR

IN BRIEF

Hero Electric dispatches at zero on chip deficit

NEW DELHI

Electric two-wheeler maker Hero Electric said it had zero dispatches to dealers in April, hit by the ongoing global semiconductor shortage that led to stoppage of production. The firm experienced extreme chip shortage and supply chain constraints, it said. PTI

Varroc to sell part of 4-wheeler lighting unit

MUMBAI

Varroc Engineering Ltd., a leading auto-component firm, has signed a Securities Purchase Agreement with Compagnie Plastic Omnium SE of France to divest its 4-wheeler lighting systems operations in the Americas and Europe for €600 million. The divestment was part of a strategy to align its resources with high growth markets, the company said.

LIC: '25 anchor investors show interest'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
KOLKATA

The proposed maiden public offer by state-owned Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) has received interests from more than 25 anchor investors both foreign and domestic, an official said here on Friday.

The government plans to dilute 3.5% of its stake in LIC to raise ₹21,000 crore from the market next month. An official of one of the lead managers said 50%of the offer is reserved for QIPs, including anchor investors. He said 35% is being reserved for retail investors, 15% for high net worth individuals and 10% for policyholders.

Refiners said to be in talks for Russian oil deal

Import of 16 mn barrels a month likely

REUTERS
NEW DELHI

Indian refiners are negotiating a six-month oil deal with Russia to import millions of barrels per month, multiple sources with knowledge of the matter said, as the world's third largest importer seeks more Russian crude despite Western sanctions.

India's top refiner Indian Oil Corp. (IOC), Bharat Petroleum Corp. (BPCL) and Hindustan Petroleum Corp. (HPCL) are negotiating the deal with Russia's Rosneft, the sources said.

IOC is negotiating a contract to import 6 million barrels of oil per month with an option to buy another 3 million barrels, they said. BPCL and HPCL are looking for monthly imports of 4 million barrels and 3 million barrels, respectively, the sources said. India imports more than 85% of its crude oil needs at 5 million barrels per day (bpd).

'Auction of 27.5-28.5 Ghz band unlikely'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

The government may not auction spectrum frequency range between 27.5-28.5 gigahertz and leave it for satellite services, according to official sources.

The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) had recommended a base price for this frequency range and suggested that it can be used for both mobile as well as satellite services.

Two official sources acknowledged that the Department of Telecom (DoT) is considering auctioning spectrum only up to 27.5 Ghz as sharing between the two services is difficult.

UltraTech Q4 net surges 47% as demand rises

Board recommends a dividend of ₹38

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Aditya Birla group firm UltraTech Cement on Friday reported an increase of 47.3% in its consolidated net profit to ₹2,613.75 crore for the fourth quarter ended March 2022, led by improved demand situation and effective capacity utilisation.

Its revenue from operations for the financial year ended on March 31, 2022, was at ₹ 52,598.83 crore.

Its revenue from operations was up 9.45% to ₹15,767.28 crore during the quarter under review

"After a slow start to the quarter, demand improved month-on-month, driven by an improvement in the government's various project execution," said UltraTech in the earnings statement.

Meanwhile, in a separate filing, UltraTech said its board in a meeting held on Friday recommended a dividend of ₹38 per equity share of ₹10 each for FY 22.

Shell to buy Sprng Energy for $1.55 bn

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

Shell on Friday agreed to acquire India-based renewable power platform Sprng Energy for $1.55 billion.

Shell Overseas Investment B.V., a wholly owned subsidiary of Shell Plc., said it has signed an agreement with U.K. investor Actis to buy 100% of Solenergi Power Private Ltd. for $1.55 billion and with it, the Sprng Energy group.

Sprng Energy supplies solar and wind power to electricity distribution firms n India. It has 2.9 gigawatts-peak (GWp) of assets with a further 7.5 GWp of renewable energy projects in the pipeline.

SPORT

LIVE TELECAST

Khelo India Games: DD Sports, 6.15 a.m.
IPL 2022: Star Sports 1 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 3.30 p.m. & 7.30 p.m.
Premier League: SS Select 2 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 5 p.m., 7.30 p.m. & 10 p.m.
Bundesliga: Sony Ten 2 (SD & HD) & Sony LIV, 7 p.m. & 9 p.m.
Serie A: Vh1, Voot Select & Jio TV, 6.30 p.m., 9.30 p.m. & 12.15 a.m. (Sunday)
La Liga: MTV, Voot Select & Jio TV, 5.30 p.m., 7.45 p.m., 10 p.m. & 12.30 a.m. (Sunday)

IN BRIEF

Suns clinch playoff series

LOS ANGELES

Phoenix Suns defeated New Orleans Pelicans 115-109 to complete a 4-2 playoff series victory on Thursday. Philadelphia 76ers and Dallas Mavericks also advanced.
The results: EC: Toronto 97 lost to Philadelphia 132 (Philadelphia wins series 4-2); **WC:** New Orleans 109 lost to Phoenix 115 (Phoenix wins 4-2); Utah 96 lost to Dallas 98 (Dallas wins 4-2). AFP

Ronaldo salvages United's day

Chelsea fails to drive home its dominance

PREMIER LEAGUE

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
MANCHESTER

Chelsea edged towards securing its place in next season's Champions League despite failing to make the most of its dominance in a 1-1 draw at Manchester United on Thursday.

Marcos Alonso's opener was quickly cancelled out by Cristiano Ronaldo to leave the third-placed Blues eight points clear of Tottenham in fifth in the Premier League with five games remaining.

United interim boss Ralf Rangnick had already given up hope of the Red Devils climbing into the top four and a point leaves them still five points adrift of fourth-placed Arsenal having played two games more.

Thomas Tuchel's men have suffered heavy home defeats to Brentford and Arsenal, as well as seeing their defence of the Champions League come to an end.

But they were just the latest side to have too much energy, ideas and organisation for a United team that can now only match its lowest ever points tally in the Premier League era by winning its remaining three games.

In keeping with the Red Devils' season only David de Gea and Ronaldo emerged with any credit by keeping the hosts in the game at either end.

The result: Manchester United 1 (Ronaldo 62) drew with Chelsea 1 (Alonso 60).

Saviour: Ronaldo fires in United's equaliser. •AFP

Frankfurt on brink of entering final

Leipzig leaves it late against Rangers

EUROPA LEAGUE

ASSOCIATED PRESS
PARIS

Eintracht Frankfurt is a step away from reaching its first European competition final in more than 40 years after beating West Ham 2-1 in the first leg of the Europa League semifinals on Thursday.

The German team had knocked out Barcelona in the quarterfinals and quickly shocked West Ham when Ansgar Knauff scored 51 seconds after kickoff at the London Stadium.

Both clubs are bidding to reach what would be their biggest match in decades – Frankfurt's last final came when it won the Europa League predecessor UEFA Cup in 1980, and West Ham's last game of that stature was the 1976 Cup Winner's Cup final.

All-German final?

An all-German final in the second-tier European competition is a possibility after Leipzig scored late to defeat Rangers 1-0 at home in the other semifinal match.

Leipzig had beaten Atalanta to reach this stage and is aiming for its first-ever European final.

The second-leg games are scheduled for next Thursday.

The results: Semifinals, first legs: RB Leipzig 1 (Angelino 85) bt Rangers 0; West Ham United 1 (Antonio 21) lost to Eintracht Frankfurt 2 (Knauff 1, Kamada 54).

Varun secures 10m air pistol gold

SRM blanks Lovely Professional in TT

KHELO VARSITIES

SPORTS REPORTER
BENGALURU

Charan Singh University's Varun Tomar defeated Surinder Singh of Punjabi University in the men's 10m air pistol individual final to clinch gold in the Khelo India University Games on Friday. In the women's table tennis team event, SRM University blanked Lovely Professional University 3-0.

The results: Shooting: Finals: Men: 10m Air Pistol: Individual: Varun Tomar (Charan Singh) bt Surinder Singh (Punjabi) 16-8. **Team:** Delhi University (Varun Dubey 575, Shaurya Sarin 575, Harsh Gupta 572) 1722. **50m 3 position: Individual:** Sartaj Singh (Lovely Professional) bt Aishwary Tomar (Guru Nanak Dev) 16-6.

Table tennis: Group stage: Women: SRM University bt Lovely Professional University (S. Sharmitha bt Bindiya Arora 11-4, 11-8, 11-5; V. Kowshika bt Khushi Kumari 11-1, 11-3, 11-3; Kanmani Rao bt Tamanna Chhabra 11-3; 11-5; 11-2); Mumbai bt Lalit Narayan Mithila 3-1 (Vidhi Shah bt Moumita Pal 11-5, 11-6, 11-7; Tejal Kamble bt Mayuri Chatterjee 11-9, 9-11, 8-11, 8-11; Siya Hingorany bt Indira Pal 11-6, 11-9, 11-4; Vidhi Shah bt Mayuri Chatterjee 11-9, 11-9, 11-9).

Men: SRM University bt Panjab University 3-1 (Abinay Vijay Babu bt Divaksh Dawar 11-6, 11-13, 11-8, 11-9; Shrikrishna Arunachalam bt Sahil Sharma 11-10, 10-12, 11-5, 11-8; P.L. Lakshmanan bt Shaurya Miglani 7-11, 9-11, 8-11; Shrikrishna Arunachalam bt Divaksh Dawar 9-11, 11-4, 11-7, 10-12, 11-8).

Lucknow Super Giants defends 153 to trump Punjab Kings

De Kock top scores with 46, puts on 85 runs for the second wicket with Hooda before Mohsin, Chameera and Krunal's fine spells prove decisive

IPL 2022

P.K. AJITH KUMAR

Mayank Agarwal broke into a big smile when K.L. Rahul was caught behind at Pune's MCA Stadium on Friday night. Rahul would have the last laugh of the night, though.

Having watched Rahul bat from the best seat in the house – the non-striker's end – for much of his career, Mayank knows the significance of getting his former opening partner at Kings Punjab out early.

Stars of the show: Opener de Kock top scored with 46, and then Mohsin (3/24) and Krunal (2/11) bowled splendidly to seal the win for Super Giants. • SPORTZPICS/IPL

Setback

For Lucknow Super Giants, it was indeed a setback: the captain has been fantastic at the top of the order in the IPL this season, with two hundreds and a fifty. On this night though, Rahul lasted just 11 balls before Kagiso Rabada forced him to edge behind the stumps.

Though Rahul's opening partner Quinton de Kock (46, 37b, 4x4, 2x6) and Deepak Hooda (34, 28b, 1x4, 2x6) put on 85 for the second wicket, a spectacular collapse meant the men from Lucknow would finish with 153 for eight, after being put in. From 98 for one, they had slumped to 111 for six, losing five wickets within a space of three overs.

A fine effort by their bowlers, and some not-too-smart batting by PBKS, however, ensured that their total was enough to post a sixth win – by 20 runs – in the tournament. The Punjab innings had got off to a reasonable start with Mayank and the in-form Shikhar Dhawan adding 35 for the first wicket inside five overs.

But Mayank's promising innings (25, 17b) was ended by a superb catch at mid-off by Rahul, whose jump at mid-off was timed better than his friend's shot off Dushmantha Chameera. Before long, Dhawan was bowled while attempting to sweep Ravi Bishnoi.

When Bhanuka Rajapaksa was sent back by Krunal Pandya, PBKS found itself in some trouble. But with Jonny Bairstow finally showing signs of his true self as a batter, the Punjab team could afford to hope, but he fell to Chameera for 32 (28b, 5x4).

Mohsin Khan, Chameera and Krunal bowled well to capture seven wickets between them.

Earlier, LSG's collapse began with de Kock's dismissal.

The left-hander was caught behind when he tried to cut Sandeep Sharma. And he walked; he was patted on the back by an appreciative bowler. In the following over, Hooda was run out by a wonderous direct hit from the deep by Bairstow.

SCOREBOARD

LUCKNOW SUPER GIANTS

Quinton de Kock c Jitesh b Sandeep 46 *(37b, 4x4, 2x6)*, K.L. Rahul c Jitesh b Rabada 6 *(11b, 1x4)*, Deepak Hooda run out 34 *(28b, 1x4, 2x6)*, Krunal Pandya c S. Dhawan b Rabada 7 *(7b, 1x4)*, Marcus Stoinis c & b Chahar 1 *(4b)*, Ayush Badoni c Livingstone b Rabada 4 *(4b)*, Jason Holder c Sandeep b Chahar 11 *(8b, 1x6)*, Dushmantha Chameera c Chahar b Rabada 17 *(10b, 2x6)*, Mohsin Khan (not out) 13 *(6b, 1x4, 1x6)*, Avesh Khan (not out) 2 *(5b)*; Extras (lb-8, w-4): 12; Total (for eight wkts. in 20 overs): 153.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-13 (Rahul, 2.5 overs), 2-98 (de Kock, 12.4), 3-104 (Hooda, 13.3), 4-105 (Krunal, 14.1), 5-109 (Badoni, 14.5), 6-111 (Stoinis, 15.3), 7-126 (Holder, 17.4), 8-144 (Chameera, 18.3).

PUNJAB KINGS BOWLING

Arshdeep 4-0-23-0, Sandeep 4-0-18-1, Rabada 4-0-38-4, R. Dhawan 2-0-13-0, Livingstone 2-0-23-0, Chahar 4-0-30-2

PUNJAB KINGS

Mayank Agarwal c Rahul b Chameera 25 *(17b, 2x4, 2x6)*, Shikhar Dhawan b Bishnoi 5 *(15b)*, Jonny Bairstow c Krunal b Chameera 32 *(28b, 5x4)*, Bhanuka Rajapaksa c Rahul b Krunal 9 *(7b, 1x4)*, Liam Livingstone c de Kock b Mohsin 18 *(16b, 2x6)*, Jitesh Sharma lbw b Krunal 2 *(5b)*, Rishi Dhawan (not out) 21 *(22b, 3x4, 1x6)*, Kagiso Rabada c Badoni b Mohsin 2 *(5b)*, Rahul Chahar c Badoni b Mohsin 4 *(4b, 1x4)*, Arshdeep Singh (not out) 0 *(2b)*; Extras (b-4, lb-2, nb-1, w-8): 15; Total (for eight wkts. in 20 overs): 133.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-35 (Mayank, 4.4 overs), 2-46 (S. Dhawan, 6.3), 3-58 (Rajapaksa, 7.6), 4-88 (Livingstone, 12.1), 5-92 (Jitesh, 13.2), 6-103 (Bairstow, 15.2), 7-112 (Rabada, 17.2), 8-117 (Chahar, 17.6)

SUPER GIANTS BOWLING

Mohsin 4-1-24-3, Chameera 4-0-17-2, Holder 1-0-8-0, Avesh 3-0-26-0, Bishnoi 4-0-41-1, Krunal 4-1-11-2.

Toss: Punjab Kings

MoM: Krunal Pandya

Super Giants won by 20 runs.

Innings scan

LSG		PBKS
51	Dots	67
8	Fours	12
8	Sixes	5
39/1	PP	46/1
7.65	RR	6.65

Next assignment

LSG: May 1 vs. **DC**
Wankhede, 3.30 p.m.

PBKS: May 3 vs. **GT**
DY Patil, 7.30 p.m.

POINTS TABLE

Team	M	W	L	PTS	NRR
Gujarat Titans	8	7	1	14	0.371
Rajasthan Royals	8	6	2	12	0.561
Lucknow Super Giants	9	6	3	12	0.408
Sunrisers Hyderabad	8	5	3	10	0.600
Royal Challengers Bangalore	9	5	4	10	-0.572
Delhi Capitals	8	4	4	8	0.695
Punjab Kings	9	4	5	8	-0.470
Kolkata Knight Riders	9	3	6	6	-0.006
Chennai Super Kings	8	2	6	4	-0.538
Mumbai Indians	8	0	8	0	-1.000

AFTER THE PBKS-LSG MATCH ON APRIL 29

Royals look to surge ahead

Can the faltering Mumbai Indians spoil their party?

SHAYAN ACHARYA
MUMBAI

Rajasthan Royals and Mumbai Indians – two teams with contrasting fortunes – will face off in an Indian Premier League group league fixture at the DY Patil Stadium on Saturday.

While five-time champion Mumbai Indians is out of the playoff race with eight losses from as many games, Rajasthan Royals is on a three-match winning streak and aiming to surge ahead.

Backbone: Buttler has been the major contributor to Royals' success thus far. • SPORTZPICS/IPL

Tribute to Warne

And, with Royals celebrating the life and contributions of its only IPL title-winning captain Shane Warne, who passed away in Thailand last month, during this game, a win here would be a perfect tribute to the Australian legend.

For the Royals, a lot will depend on Jos Buttler, captain Sanju Samson and Shimron Hetmyer. While Buttler has hammered three centuries in the tournament so far, Sanju and Hetmyer, too, have played their parts well and the fact that Riyan Parag is back in form will give the Royals a lot of confidence.

Its bowling department looks well-oiled with spin duo R. Ashwin and Yuzvendra Chahal around. Featuring for a new franchise this season, Chahal has been the highest wicket-taker so far with 18 scalps, and pacers Trent Boult and Prasidh Krishna, too, have had an impact.

Mumbai Indians, meanwhile, have faltered in every department. Captain Rohit Sharma and Ishan Kishan have struggled, and even though Suryakumar Yadav, Tilak Varma and Dewald Brewis have had their moments, those were not enough.

Kulkarni comes in

Bowling, too, has been a concern as Jasprit Bumrah hasn't had enough backing from Jaydev Unadkat and Daniel Sams, forcing the management to rope in Dhawal Kulkarni.

TODAY'S MATCHES

BRABOURNE, 3.30 P.M.

HEAD-TO-HEAD

FIRST MEETING

DY PATIL, 7.30 P.M

HEAD-TO-HEAD

Played: 25

RR 12 | MI 13

Previous meeting: RR won by 23 runs, 2022

STAR SPORTS 1 (SD & HD)

RCB frets over Kohli's form

Titans on a high after fantastic win

Contrasting fortunes: While Hardik has been in good form, Kohli seems to have lost his bearings. • SPORTZPICS/IPL

SANTADEEP DEY
MUMBAI

Virat Kohli's poor run of form would be a cause for concern for Royal Challengers Bangalore ahead of the IPL clash against Gujarat Titans at the Brabourne Stadium on Saturday.

RCB comes on the back of two losses and Kohli, IPL's overall leading run-getter, is yet to get a fifty in this edition. He has 128 runs from nine matches at 16.00. In his last five games, he has two ducks and two single-digit scores.

GT will be high on confidence after Rashid Khan and Rahul Tewatia's Houdini act against Sunrisers Hyderabad on Wednesday.

The two retained their composure to plunder 25 runs in the final over to take the team home. The Hardik Pandya-led team has now won four successive matches to move to the top.

The ability to pick up early wickets may prove to be the difference between the two sides. With Mohammad Shami and Lockie Ferguson spearheading the pace attack, the Titans have effected the most dismissals in the PowerPlay (19).

However, RCB leads the charts when it comes to the number of runs scored (735) and wickets taken (31) in the middle overs with Shahbaz Ahmed, Harshal Patel and Wanindu Hasaranga being the key contributors.

The Titans are likely to play the same eleven, while the Royal Challengers may, at some point, rest Kohli.

However, with captain Faf du Plessis saying, "...we still back him to turn it around." If Kohli is rested, Anuj Rawat may be back as opener, with Rajat Patidar continuing at No. 3.

Umran's natural skills impress Steyn

Pace legend glad to play a role in youngster's development

S. DINAKAR
MUMBAI

Dale Steyn's high velocity bowling stemmed from a run-up and action that were almost balletic. It was brutal pace with grace.

Now 38 with 439 Test wickets behind him, Steyn is the pace bowling coach of Sunrisers Hyderabad in the Tata-IPL. The former South African pace predator answered questions from *The Hindu* here on Friday.

Master and pupil: Steyn believes Umran has the ability to scare batters out of their comfort zones. • SPORTZPICS/IPL

Working with new pace bowling sensation Umran Malik

I could have been with any IPL franchise, but coming to Sunrisers and playing a role in Umran's development is very satisfying. He is very much the talk of the town.

Umran's attributes

He is very fast, something that cannot be taught. You have to be born with the ability to bowl fast. If you have that, the support staff can help you maintain that speed.

In this IPL, he has forced batters to play him differently with his scary pace, forced them out of their comfort zones, and got them into uncomfortable body positions.

He can swing the ball and bowl yorkers at will. The other night against Gujarat, four of his five victims were bowled. Umran has a nasty short-pitched ball. Batters anticipate that delivery and are preparing to cut or slash him when he bamboozles them with the yorker. It's a double bluff. He is beating batters with sheer speed, they are late on the ball. I wish he bowls the short-pitched delivery more often.

Sunrisers' complete pace attack

Bhuvneshwar and Natarajan are professional international bowlers. They know their roles and have Plans 'A', 'B' and 'C' in place. Jansen is an exciting prospect. He can bring the ball into the right-hander from that height and extract natural bounce.

Against Royal Challengers, he removed Faf du Plessis and Virat Kohli in his first over to open up the game for us. But he could not defend 20-plus runs in the last over against Gujarat Titans. That can happen. He is still young and getting used to the IPL last-over pressure.

The idea was not wrong, he was trying to bowl yorkers. But could not get the execution right. Once the ball leaves the hand, it is out of your control.

This said, two of the sixes eluded fielders on the boundary by inches. Games are decided by inches.

On Dean Elgar turning things around for South Africa in Tests

Very happy. He's courageous, is the best opener in the team, has played in different parts of the world, understands the game, and can motivate his men.

Pujara slams ton again

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
HOVE (UK)

Senior India batter Cheteshwar Pujara continued his stellar show in the English County Championship, scoring his third century in as many games for Sussex here on Friday.

Pujara, who was batting on 128 off 198 balls, hit 16 fours to help his side reach 362 for five at stumps on the second day against Durham, which was all out on 223 in its first innings.

Praggs finishes fourth

SPORTS BUREAU

Overnight leaders R. Praggnanandhaa and Magnus Carlsen crashed to identical 2.5-0.5 seventh-round defeats and Jan-Krzysztof Duda crushed last-man Eric Hansen by a similar margin to win the Oslo Esports Cup rapid online chess tournament on Thursday.

A struggling Anish Giri finished seventh in the eight-man field after stopping Praggnanandhaa while Shakhriyar Mamedyarov stunned Carlsen to take the fifth spot.

Meanwhile, Duda toyed with Hansen to take the top spot. Quang needed tiebreak games to beat Jorden van Foreest 3.5-2.5 and therefore finished a point behind Duda for the second spot.

Carlsen and Praggnanandhaa tied at 12 points and finished third and fourth.

The results:

Seventh round: R. Praggnanandhaa lost to Anish Giri (Ned) 0.5-2.5; Shakhriyar Mamedyarov (Aze) bt Magnus Carlsen (Nor) 2.5-0.5; Le Quang Liem (Vie) bt Jorden van Foreest (Ned) 3.5-2.5 (Quang won blitz tiebreaker 1.5-0.5); Jan-Krzysztof Duda (Pol) bt Eric Hansen (Can) 2.5-0.5.

Boris Becker jailed in bankruptcy case

REUTERS
LONDON

German tennis great Boris Becker was jailed by a London court for 2-1/2 years on Friday for hiding hundreds of thousands of pounds of assets after he was declared bankrupt.

He was convicted earlier this month of four charges under Britain's Insolvency Act, including failing to disclose, concealing and removing significant assets following a bankruptcy trial.

The 54-year-old six-times Grand Slam champion was found guilty of transferring money to his ex-wife Barbara and estranged wife Sharlely after his 2017 bankruptcy.

"It is notable you have not shown remorse or acceptance of your guilt... there has been no humility," said judge Deborah Taylor as she sentenced him.

Boris Becker. • AFP

She said Becker would serve half his sentence behind bars and the remainder on licence. Becker, whose partner Lillian and son Noah were in court, looked straight ahead as the sentence was handed down.

Bengal blanks Manipur to enter final

Sujith, Fardin and Dilip get on the scoresheet

SANTOSH TROPHY

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MANJERI

West Bengal grabbed its chances to blank Manipur 3-0 and entered the final of the Santosh Trophy National football championship at the Payyanad stadium here on Friday.

Sujith Singh (3), Fardin Ali Molla (7) and Dilip Orawan (73) scored for Bengal which will meet host Kerala in the final.

Goalscorer: Fardin Ali Molla, who scored Bengal's second goal, in action. • SAKEER HUSSAIN

West Bengal struck twice in space of four minutes in the first half to take the wind out of Manipur's sails. Sujith Singh opened the scoring in the third minute with a speculative 25-yard shot which bounced awkwardly in front of a diving Manipur goalkeeper Chingkhei Meitei and went in.

Meitei's poor anticipation paved the way for the second Bengal goal in the seventh minute. The goalkeeper came out of his guard when a long ball was played into the Manipur penalty box. But the keeper failed to gather the ball which came to Fardin Ali Molla, who controlled it and shimmied past two defenders to stab home from the top of the box.

Manipur substituted Meitei with Abujar in the 22nd minute and it regrouped in the middle. The Bengal goal withstood a late surge from Manipur in the first half. Goalkeeper Priyant kumar was again his team's saviour as he blocked a sharp chance from Sudhir Laitonjam in the 32nd minute. Manipur threatened again but the Bengal defence held out to preserve its lead.

Manipur fired on all cylinders in the second half but Bengal's defence held firm and allowed only a few balls to reach goalkeeper Priyant. However, a fast counterattack by Manipur in the 65th minute split the defence but striker Somishan Shirak wasted his team's best chance as he only managed a feeble shot which was saved by Priyant Kumar.

A fortuitous goal by Dilip Orwan in the 73rd minute killed the contest. Seeing goalkeeper Abujar straying off his line Dilip hoisted a long ball towards the Manipur goal from the right flank. The ball's trajectory beat Abujar's desperate attempt to tip it over and it went in from near post.

The result:

West Bengal 2 (Sujith Singh 3, Fardin Ali Molla 7, Dilip Orawan 73) bt Manipur 0.

Sindhu advances to medal round

Prevails over He in the quarterfinals; Satwiksairaj-Chirag duo ousted

Pumped up: Sindhu vents her emotion during the thriller against He. •TWITTER/BADMINTON ASIA

BADMINTON

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MANILA

Double Olympic medallist P.V. Sindhu eked out a thrilling 21-9, 13-21, 21-19 win over China's He Bing Jiao to make the women's singles semifinals of the Badminton Asia Championships here on Friday.

Fourth-seeded Sindhu, who got the better of the fifth-seeded Chinese in an hour and 16 minutes, is thus assured of a medal.

Later in the day, the fifth seeded Malaysian pair of Aaron Chia and Soh Wooi Yik beat India's Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty, 12-21, 21-14, 21-16.

World No. 7 Sindhu came into the match with a 7-9 head-to-head record against He, whom she had beaten twice in the last two meetings. She galloped to an 11-2 lead and kept things under her firm grip to take the first set. However, he came back strongly after the change of sides, moving to 6-4, managing an 11-10 advantage and reeling off five points on the trot to grab a 19-12 lead and eventually level the contest.

In the decider, Sindhu unleashed her cross-court smashes to gather points, moving to a massive 11-5 lead.

He scripted a recovery after the interval to narrow down the deficit to 15-16 as Sindhu let the momentum slip despite being 15-9 up.

It was 18-16 next with Sindhu's slice going to the net. The Indian then unleashed a body smash before grabbing four match-points. The Chinese saved three match-points before Sindhu prevailed.

The results (quarterfinals): Women: P.V. Sindhu bt He Bing Jiao (Chn) 21-9, 13-21, 21-19.

Men's doubles: Aaron Chia & Soh Wooi Yik (Mas) bt Satwiksairaj Rankireddy & Chirag Shetty 12-21, 21-14, 21-16.

Sumit Nagal exits in pre-quarterfinals

INDIANS ABROAD

SPORTS BUREAU

Sumit Nagal was beaten 6-3, 6-3 by Jack Sock of the US in the pre-quarterfinals of the $53,120 Challenger tennis tournament in Savannah, USA.

In the Challenger in Mexico, Yuki Bhambri and Saketh Myneni made the doubles semifinals.

The results: $53,120 Challenger, Savannah, USA: Singles (pre-quarterfinals): Jack Sock (USA) bt Sumit Nagal 6-3, 6-3.

Doubles (quarterfinals): Tung-Lin Wu (Tpe) & Zhizhen Zhang (Chn) bt Purav Raja & Ramkumar Ramanathan 7-5, 7-6(5).

$53,120 Challenger, Cuernavaca, Mexico: Doubles (quarterfinals): Yuki Bhambri & Saketh Myneni bt Sikander Mansouri (Tun) & Michail Pervolarakis (Gre) 6-3, 7-6(5).

$15,000 ITF men, Chiang Rai, Thailand: Singles (quarterfinals): S.D. Prajwal Dev bt Yuta Shimizu (Jpn) 7-5, 6-3.

IN BRIEF

Armstrong sets 50m backstroke World record

WASHINGTON

Hunter Armstrong set a 50m backstroke World record of 23.71s in qualifying for the 2022 swimming World Championships at the US trials on Thursday.

Armstrong, 21, broke Russian Kliment Kolesnikov's mark of 23.80s set at the European championships in Budapest on May 18, 2021. AFP

Japan sets up title clash with Korea

NEW DELHI

Ren Matsumura and Ryo Tabata battled for nearly three hours each as Japan blanked Thailand 2-0, and Korea beat Kazakhstan 2-1, to enter the final of the Asia-Oceania World Junior Tennis under-14 boys tournament here on Friday.

In the final, Japan will face Korea which beat Kazakhstan 2-1.

The results: Semifinals: Korea bt Kazakhstan 2-1; Japan bt Thailand 2-0.

5-8 placing: India bt Hong Kong 2-1 (Aditya Mor lost to Siu Chi Nicholas Cheng 2-6, 4-6; Arnav Paparkar bt Sin Hang Tam 6-2, 6-2; Tanussh Ghildyal & Arnav Paparkar bt Siu Chi Nicholas Cheng & Ngai Hoi Cheung 7-6(5), 7-5).

BENGALURU ROUND-UP

Karan and Sreeniti are the champs

Karan Thapa and Sreeniti Choudhary emerged the boys' and girls' singles winners respectively at the SAT Sports-AITA U-14 CS7 tennis tournament that concluded here on Friday.

The results: Boys: Karan Thapa bt C.M. Shrikanth 7-6(2), 6-2; **Girls:** Sreeniti Choudhary bt Jia Singh 6-0, 6-0.

Rebels blanks Parikram

Rebels FC defeated Parikram FC 2-0 in the BDFA A-division league, here on Friday.

The results: Rebels FC 2 (Dinesh Singh Soub 23, Donboklang Lyndong 45) bt Parikram FC 0; BTM FC 1 (Ashley Grant Cleary 46) drew with HAL FC 1 (Ramesh Durga Prakash (OG) 18).

Narrow win for Bangalore Super Strikers

Bangalore Super Strikers FC edged Technico Football Foundation 3-2 in the KSFA C-division league, here on Friday.

The results: Rush FC 2 (Nithyananda 7, Trishanth 20) bt Legendary FC 1 (K. Rashid 6); Bangalore Super Strikers FC 3 (Dinesh 3, Pradeep 17, K.K. Adhker 50) bt Technico Football Foundation FC 2 (Akash Hiremath 40, Clavery 57).

Sreeniti Choudhary and Karan Thapa, the singles winners. •SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Nikhil fashions SRCA's win

Nikhil Nagavi's all-round effort (45 and 3/28) was instrumental in SRCA's 31-run win over Magadi CA in an under-14 category match in the Tiger Cup cricket tournament on Friday.

The scores: U-14: SRCA 173 in 29.3 overs (Nikhil Nagavi 45, Jaival 30, B.R. Rathan 3/32, Krish Rao 3/40) bt Magadi CA 142 in 27.5 overs (Ishaan Nayak 52, N. Pranav 37, Nikhil Nagavi 3/28).

U-12: SRCA 110 in 29.2 overs lost to Magadi CA 111 for no loss in 19.1 overs (Santosh 44 n.o.).